

The Gilda Stories

Mark Hansen thought working as artist's assistant would be glamorous, especially if that artist was a vampire. Black tie events, witty repartee, gracing the pages of the local style section.... Didn't happen. Not even once. Jonathan Varga is an enigma. True, he's quiet, generous, and scrupulously polite. But he has zero social life, refuses to be interviewed or photographed, and insists he can only consume feline blood. Why supermarket blood won't suffice, Mark hasn't asked. He's rarely at a loss for words-he can dish an insult and follow it with a snap as quick as you can say "Miss Thang." But one look at Jonathan's black-as-sin gypsy eyes, and Mark's objections drain away. So he endures the perpetual grind of their routine: Jonathan hiding in his studio, swiping black paint onto black canvases. Mark hurling insults while he buffs the office to a shine with antiviral wipes. Each of them avoiding the other in a careful choreography...until a blurb in *Art in America* unleashes a chain of harrowing events. As secrets from Jonathan's past are brought to light, it becomes clear that all his precautions weren't nearly enough.

LONGLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE At the bitter end of the 1960s, after surviving multiple assassination attempts, President John F. Kennedy is entering his third term in office. The Vietnam War

rages on, and the president has created a vast federal agency, the Psych Corps, dedicated to maintaining the nation's mental hygiene by any means necessary. Soldiers returning from the war have their battlefield traumas "enfolded"—wiped from their memories through drugs and therapy—while veterans too damaged to be enfolded roam at will in Michigan, evading the government and reenacting atrocities on civilians. This destabilized version of American history is the vision of twenty-two-year old Eugene Allen, who has returned from Vietnam to write the book-within-a-book at the center of *Hystopia*. In conversation with some of the greatest war narratives, from Homer's *Iliad* to the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter," David Means channels the voice of Allen, the young veteran out to write a novel that can bring honor to those he fought with in Vietnam while also capturing the tragic history of his own family. The critic James Wood has written that Means's language "offers an exquisitely precise and sensuous register of an often crazy American reality." In *Hystopia*, his highly anticipated first novel, David Means brings his full talent to bear on the crazy reality of trauma, both national and personal. Outlandish and tender, funny and violent, timely and historical, *Hystopia* invites us to consider whether our traumas can ever be truly overcome. The answers it offers are wildly inventive, deeply rooted in its characters, and wrung from the author's own

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heart.

"The Gilda Stories is groundbreaking not just for the wild lives it portrays, but for how it portrays them--communally, unapologetically, roaming fiercely over space and time."--Emma Donoghue, author of Room "Jewelle Gomez sees right into the heart. This is a book to give to those you want most to find their own strength."—Dorothy Allison This remarkable novel begins in 1850s Louisiana, where Gilda escapes slavery and learns about freedom while working in a brothel. After being initiated into eternal life as one who "shares the blood" by two women there, Gilda spends the next two hundred years searching for a place to call home. An instant lesbian classic when it was first published in 1991, The Gilda Stories has endured as an auspiciously prescient book in its explorations of blackness, radical ecology, re-definitions of family, and yes, the erotic potential of the vampire story. Jewelle Gomez is a writer, activist, and the author of many books including Forty-Three Septembers, Don't Explain, The Lipstick Papers, Flamingoes and Bears, and Oral Tradition. The Gilda Stories was the recipient of two Lambda Literary Awards, and was adapted for the stage by the Urban Bush Women theater company in thirteen United States cities. Alexis Pauline Gumbs was named one of UTNE Reader's 50 Visionaries Transforming the World, a Reproductive Reality Check Shero, a Black Woman

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Rising nominee, and was awarded one of the first-ever "Too Sexy for 501c3" trophies. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. More praise for *The Gilda Stories*: "Jewelle's big-hearted novel pulls old rhythms out of the earth, the beauty shops and living rooms of black lesbian herstory, expressed by the dazzling vampire Gilda. Her resilience is a testament to black queer women's love, power, and creativity. Brilliant!"--Joan Steinau Lester, author of *Black, White, Other* "In sensuous prose, Jewelle Gomez uses the vampire story as a vehicle for a re-telling of American history in which the disenfranchised finally get their say. Her take on queerness, community, and the vampire legend is as radical and relevant as ever."--Michael Nava, author of *The City of Palaces* "The *Gilda Stories* are both classic and timely. Gilda emphasizes the import of tenets at the crux of black feminism while her stories ring with the urgency of problems that desperately need to be resolved in our current moment."--Theri A. Pickens, author of *New Body Politics* "The *Gilda Stories* was ahead of its time when it was first published in 1991, and this anniversary edition reminds us why it's still an important novel. Gomez's characters are rooted in historical reality yet lift seductively out of it, to trouble traditional models of family, identity, and literary genre and imagine for us bold new patterns. A lush, exciting, inspiring read."--Sarah Waters, author of *Tipping the Velvet* ". . . its focus on a black lesbian

who possesses considerable agency throughout the centuries, and its commentary on gender and race, remain significant and powerful."--Publishers Weekly

Fledgling, Octavia Butler's last novel, is the story of an apparently young, amnesiac girl whose alarmingly un-human needs and abilities lead her to a startling conclusion: she is in fact a genetically modified, 53-year-old vampire. Forced to discover what she can about her stolen former life, she must at the same time learn who wanted—and still wants—to destroy her and those she cares for, and how she can save herself. Fledgling is a captivating novel that tests the limits of "otherness" and questions what it means to be truly human.

When Kelly Cogswell plunged into New York's East Village in 1992, she had just come out. An ex-Southern Baptist born in Kentucky, she was camping in an Avenue B loft, scribbling poems, and playing in an underground band, trying to figure out her next move. A couple of months later she was consumed by the Lesbian Avengers, instigating direct action campaigns, battling cops on Fifth Avenue, mobilizing 20,000 dykes for a march on Washington, D.C., and eating fire—literally—in front of the White House. At once streetwise and wistful, *Eating Fire* is a witty and urgent coming-of-age memoir spanning two decades, from the Culture War of the early 1990s to the War on Terror. Cogswell's story is an engaging blend of picaresque adventure,

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how-to activist handbook, and rigorous inquiry into questions of identity, resistance, and citizenship. It is also a compelling, personal recollection of friendships and fallings-out and of finding true love—several times over. After the Lesbian Avengers imploded, Cogswell describes how she became a pioneering citizen journalist, cofounding the Gully online magazine with the groundbreaking goal of offering “queer views on everything.” The first in-depth account of the influential Lesbian Avengers, *Eating Fire* reveals the group’s relationship to the queer art and activist scene in early ’90s New York and establishes the media-savvy Avengers as an important precursor to groups such as Occupy Wall Street and La Barbe, in France. A rare insider’s look at the process and perils of street activism, Kelly Cogswell’s memoir is an uncompromising and ultimately empowering story of creative resistance against hatred and injustice.

If We Were Electric’s twelve stories celebrate New Orleans in all of its beautiful peculiarities: macabre and magical, muddy and exquisite, sensual and spiritual. The stunning debut collection finds its characters in moments of desire and despair, often stuck on the verge of a great metamorphosis, but burdened by some unreasonable love. These are stories about missed opportunities, about people on the outside who don’t fit in, about the consequences of not mustering enough courage to overcome the

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binds. In “Feux Follet,” an old man’s grief attracts supernatural lights in the dark Louisiana swamps. An exploding transformer’s raw, unnerving energy in the title story matches the strange, ferocious temper of an unlucky hustler. “Blackout” sets the profound numbness of a young man physically abused by his mentally unstable partner beside the meaningful beauty of an unexpected moment of joy with someone else. The teenage narrator in “Before Las Blancas” is so overwhelmed by his sexuality that he abandons everything and everyone he’s known to live in a happy illusion . . . in Mexico. And “Where It Takes Us” is a poignant, understated snapshot of a gay man who accompanies his straight, HIV-positive brother to the race track to bond again.

In this daring collection of speculative fiction, Stephanie Andrea Allen attends to the lives of Black women, mostly lesbian or queer, all keenly aware of the forces seeking to consume them. A Black lesbian working the gig economy runs into a trio of motorized scooters and helps them escape from Earth. An enchanted sleep mask gives a woman the gift of slumber, but what will it cost her? A suburban housewife is framed for murder by her homophobic neighbor. And in the follow up to “Luna 6000,” a young woman investigates her mother’s untimely death, and learns the truth about her family.

Stephanie Andrea Allen’s *How to Dispatch a Human: Stories and Suggestions* is an unapologetic, often

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humorous, foray into the quotidian magic that envelops Black women's lives. The eleven stories in this collection are filled with characters who will entice and delight readers as they traverse the worlds around them. With a mix of fabulism, near future, and speculative fictions, Allen reminds us in exquisitely nuanced prose that the fantastical can be found amongst the ordinary.

This “vigorous, witty look at the undead as cultural icons in 19th- and 20th-century England and America” examines the many meanings of the vampire myth (Kirkus Reviews). From Byron’s Lord Ruthven to Anne Rice’s Lestat to the black bisexual heroine of Jewelle Gomez’s *The Gilda Stories*, vampires have taken many forms, capturing and recapturing our imaginations for centuries. In *Our Vampires, Ourselves*, Nina Auerbach explores the rich history of this literary and cultural phenomenon to illuminate how every age embraces the vampire it needs—and gets the vampire it deserves. Working with a wide range of texts, as well as movies and television, Auerbach follows the evolution of the vampire from 19th century England to 20th century America. Using the mercurial figure as a lens for viewing the last two hundred years of Anglo-American cultural history, “this seductive work offers profound insights into many of the urgent concerns of our time” (Wendy Doniger, *The Nation*).

Dark Matter is the first and only series to bring together

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the works of black SF and fantasy writers. The first volume was featured in the "New York Times," which named it a Notable Book of the Year.

To honor the twentieth anniversary of beloved comedienne Gilda Radner's death from ovarian cancer comes a commemorative edition of her memoir, *It's Always Something*—featuring a newly updated resource guide for people living with cancer and a tribute by Radner's former colleagues at Saturday Night Live. As a cast member on the original Saturday Night Live, Gilda Radner created a compelling character named "Roseann Rosannadanna" who habitually ended her routine with the line, "It's always something," which was her father's favorite expression about life. Radner chose the catchphrase she made famous as the title to her brave, funny, and painfully honest memoir: the story of her struggle against cancer and her determination to continue laughing. Gilda's Club, a network of affiliate clubhouses that seeks to provide a social and emotional support community to people living with cancer, was founded in Radner's memory in 1991. The name of the organization comes from a remark Gilda once made, that cancer gave her "membership to an elite club I'd rather not belong to." In partnership with Gilda's Club, *It's Always Something* includes valuable information for all whose lives have been touched by cancer and reminds us of the important place laughter has in healing. Told as only Gilda Radner could tell it, *It's Always Something* is the inspiring story of a courageous, funny woman fighting to enjoy life no matter what the circumstances. She died in 1989. Gilda's Club is distinguished by its unique

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philosophy and program, "cancer support for the whole family, the whole time." Learn more about Gilda's Club at GildasClub.org.

Before Buffy, before Twilight, before Octavia Butler's Fledgling, there was The Gilda Stories, Jewelle Gomez's sexy vampire novel."

From the wildly popular author of the groundbreaking debut *The Portable Promised Land* comes an inventive and hilarious first novel about an African-American utopia threatened by the darker side of human nature. Welcome to Soul City, where roses bloom in the cracks of the sidewalk along Cornbread Boulevard, musical genres become political platforms, and children use their allowance money to buy records from the Vinyl Man. It's an unusually peaceful and magical American community with a strong heritage and sense of unity--at least, that's how journalist Cadillac Jackson first finds it. When Jackson visits Soul City on a magazine assignment, a mayoral election is imminent and candidates from opposing parties are battling to control the city's soundtrack. Amidst the increasingly hostile campaign, Cadillac falls for Mahogany Sunflower, a beautiful Soul Cityzen, and begins a struggle to shed the embattled African-American identity he's been taught to adopt, in order to exist in a community where the content of his character really does determine a black man's identity. What he discovers reveals as much about himself as it does about human nature and the meaning of race in America.

Row is perfectly normal for a transgender man. That is, if you ignore the fact his girlfriend talks to ghosts, his sister

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spies on him through his reflection, and that he has no heart. After spending years forcing magic from his life, Row is unprepared when it resurfaces in the form of a crow with a letter from his sister. The message is simple: their mother is dead. Row attempts to brush it all away, giving his sister control of their childhood home and all his mother's stories. Unfortunately, with the power of their mother's pen, his sister is able to make her dreams come true. Dreams of ruining Row's life. To undo the damage, Row must return home on a quest to stop his sister and find his heart. Honey Walls is a novel about a trans man written, illustrated, and narrated by trans creators. It explores the difficulty of relating to a childhood that isn't quite yours. It wrestles with themes anyone can relate to like grief, growing up, and the legal ramifications of losing your socks.

"Blood Read is a fresh look at an old form, offering lively, lucid insights into the contemporary explosion of vampire fiction. Nothing else like it exists. This book should set the terms for discussion about vampires for some time to come."--Brian Attebery, Idaho State University

Black From the Future: A Collection of Black Speculative Writing encompasses the broad spectrum of Black speculative writing, including science fiction, fantasy, magical realism, and Afrofuturism, all by Black women writers. Editors Stephanie Andrea Allen and Lauren Cherelle have gathered the voices of twenty emerging and established voices in speculative fiction and poetry; writers who've imagined the weird and the wondrous, the futuristic and the fantastical, the shadowy and the sublime.

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SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 61-page guide for "The Gilda Stories" by Jewelle Gomez includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis covering 8 chapters, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 25 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like The Vampire Story as Afrofuturism and The Importance and Fluidity of Family.

In *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*, originally published in 1974, Grace Paley "makes the novel as a form seem virtually redundant" (Angela Carter, *London Review of Books*). Her stories here capture "the itch of the city, love between parents and children" and "the cutting edge of combat" (Lis Harris, *The New York Times Book Review*). In this collection of seventeen stories, she creates a "solid and vital fictional world, cross-referenced and dense with life" (Walter Clemons, *Newsweek*).

Chronicles one hundred years of African-American homosexual literature, from the turn-of-the-century writings of Alice Dunbar Nelson, to the Harlem Renaissance of Langston Hughes, to the emerging sexual liberation movements of the later postwar era as reflected by James Baldwin. Original.

Zany Gilda Joyce leaves her wacky disguises at home but brings all her psychic and investigative skills with her as she sets out to investigate a

mysterious death at a Catholic girls' school. Is Our Lady of Sorrows really haunted by the ghost of Dolores Lambert? Or is the student body suffering from group hysteria? Solving this mystery will put Gilda in more danger than she ever imagined? and will put all of her brashness, bravery, and smarts to the test.

From Brandon Massey, award-winning author of *Thunderland*, comes a terrifying new novel about a town besieged by evil . . . and the one man who is determined to fight the darkness . . . When renowned author Richard Hunter dies in a boating accident, his son David travels to Mason's Corner, Mississippi, to find out more about the father he never really knew. At first, Mason's Corner seems friendly and unassuming—the perfect small town. But after a newcomer moves into the old—and supposedly haunted—mansion on the hill, everything changes . . . People begin to disappear. Dogs viciously attack. And soon David discovers that the terror consuming this place has its roots in his own family tree . . . For something has risen in Mason's Corner. Something with bloody ties to the town's past. Something undead—and hungering for vengeance . . .

An elegant, sensual and naturalistic fantasy -- a black vampire story.

"This book examines the link between blackness and immortality in the fledgling genre of African American

vampire fiction"--

A tantalizing selection of stories from some of the best female authors who've helped define the modern vampire. Bram Stoker was hardly the first author—male or female—to fictionalize the folkloric vampire, but he defined the modern iconic vampire when *Dracula* appeared in 1897. Since then, many have reinterpreted the ever-versatile vampire over and over again—and female writers have played vital roles in proving that the vampire, as well as our perpetual fascination with it, is truly immortal. These authors have devised some of the most fascinating, popular, and entertaining of our many vampiric variations: suavely sensual . . . fascinating but fatal . . . sexy and smart . . . undead but prone to detection . . . tormented or terrifying . . . amusing or amoral . . . doomed or deadly . . . badass and beautiful . . . cutting-edge or classic . . . *Blood Sisters* collects a wide range of fantastical stories from New York Times bestsellers Holly Black, Nancy Holder, Catherynne M. Valente, and Carrie Vaughn, and critically acclaimed writers Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and Tanith Lee, all of whom have left their indelible and unique stamps on the vampire genre. Whether they are undeniably heroes and heroines or bloodthirsty monsters (or something in between), the undead are a lively lot. This anthology offers some of the best short fiction ever written by the “blood sisters” who know them best: stories you can really

sink your teeth into.

Every sorority has its secrets... And college freshman Ginger Carmichael couldn't care less. She has more important things on her mind, like maintaining her perfect GPA. No matter how much she can't stand the idea of the cliques and the matching colors, there's something about the girls of Alpha Beta Omega—their beauty, confidence, and unapologetic sexuality—that draws Ginger in. But once initiation begins, Ginger finds that her pledge is more than a bond of sisterhood, it's a lifelong pact to serve six bloodthirsty demons with a lot more than nutritional needs. Despite her fears, Ginger falls hard for the immortal queen of this nest, and as the semester draws to a close, she sees that protecting her family from the secret of her forbidden love is much harder than studying for finals.

Lambda Literary Award finalist American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book In the summer of 2009, butch writer and storyteller Ivan Coyote and gender researcher and femme dynamo Zena Sharman wrote down a wish-list of their favourite queer authors; they wanted to continue and expand the butch-femme conversation. The result is Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme. The stories in these pages resist simple definitions. The people in these stories defy reductive stereotypes and inflexible categories. The pages in this book describe the lives of an incredible diversity of people whose hearts also pounded for some reason the first time they read or heard the words "butch" or

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"femme." Contributors such as Jewelle Gomez (*The Gilda Stories*), Thea Hillman (*Intersex*), S. Bear Bergman (*Butch is a Noun*), Chandra Mayor (*All the Pretty Girls*), Amber Dawn (*Sub Rosa*), Anna Camilleri (*Brazen Femme*), Debra Anderson (*Code White*), Anne Fleming (*Anomaly*), Michael V. Smith (*Cumberland*), and Zoe Whittall (*Bottle Rocket Hearts*) explore the parameters, history, and power of a multitude of butch and femme realities. It's a raucous, insightful, sexy, and sometimes dangerous look at what the words butch and femme can mean in today's ever-shifting gender landscape, with one eye on the past and the other on what is to come. Includes a foreword by Joan Nestle, renowned femme author and editor of *The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader*, a landmark anthology originally published in 1992. Ivan E. Coyote is the author of seven books (including the novel *Bow Grip*, an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book) and a long-time muser on the trappings of the two-party gender system. Zena Sharman is the assistant director of Canada's national Institute of Gender and Health.

Tracing the growth of lesbian Gothic fiction over the 25 years since the advent of the Women's Movement and Gay Liberation in the 1970s, this text discusses a wide selection of novels and stories, contextualizing and re-evaluating them in the light of changing currents in lesbian/queer culture and politics. The figure of the lesbian, frequently portrayed in a homophobic/misogynistic light, has long been a standard component of popular Gothic fiction and film. The author argues, however, that in more contemporary fiction,

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motifs and modes of fiction with Gothic associations, such as the witch, the vampire, the spectral visitor and the Gothic thriller, have been appropriated by writers adopting a lesbian viewpoint to articulate the transgressive aspect of lesbian sexuality and existence. When Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower.

A collection of autobiographical essays about identity, the author's family, growing up and growing older, and related topics

This book critically situates the figure of the black female vampire within literary studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and critical race studies. It invites readers to take a closer look at the black female vampire figure and how that figure shapes and is shaped by cultural narratives about African American womanhood.

In Louisiana, Eric Peterson is a talented high school senior enrolled in a creative writing course at Loyola University. Insecure and inexperienced, he often daydreams about finding love. His fantasies quickly become reality when a strikingly attractive new student, Marquis LeBlanc, is assigned as his writing partner. But the man of Eric's dreams is hiding something. If Marquis reveals his secret, will Eric accept him ... or even believe him?

Presents a variety of takes on the future of Africa, including robots serving foreign interests find common cause with artists, women fall victim to society's order,

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and assassins ponder the effects of their efforts to provoke reform.

Short stories featuring lesbians. The story, Houston, is on a black lesbian vampire, while Water with Wine is on a love affair between a black professor and a white student.

At an exclusive boarding school in the late 1960's, an unnamed girl keeps a journal so that she can read it some day and "know exactly what happened to me when I was sixteen."

A collection by a feminist poet. In one of the poems she writes, "On our second walk together I'm wary / but not of you. / Boys behind a chain link fence--it's almost dusk / and they are so many in cleated shoes / full of cockish noises. / And you are not a man / and I am not white."

A collection of vampire tales with an African American flavor includes six tales of the undead by some of today's leading African American writers, including Omar Tyree, Donna Hill, and Monica Jackson.

"In this collection of 15 personal essays ... words flow with an ease, honesty, and intellect that is mesmerizing". -- Library Journal.

An alluring new collection from the author of the New York Times Notable Book, *Midnight Robber* Nalo Hopkinson (*Brown Girl in the Ring*, *The Salt Roads*, *Sister Mine*) is an internationally-beloved storyteller. Hailed by the Los Angeles Times as having "an

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imagination that most of us would kill for," her Afro-Caribbean, Canadian, and American influences shine in truly unique stories that are filled with striking imagery, unlikely beauty, and delightful strangeness. In this long-awaited collection, Hopkinson continues to expand the boundaries of culture and imagination. Whether she is retelling *The Tempest* as a new Caribbean myth, filling a shopping mall with unfulfilled ghosts, or herding chickens that occasionally breathe fire, Hopkinson continues to create bold fiction that transcends boundaries and borders.

Introduces the eight key holidays of the Jewish year, including the seven major annual holidays and the weekly holiday of the Sabbath, exploring the background, meaning, and celebration of each.

Over a two hundred year period Gilda witnesses the evils of slavery and racism in North and South America

The Gilda Stories Expanded 25th Anniversary Edition

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