

Read Online Flying Leap Judy Budnitz Free Download Pdf

Flying Leap Flying Leap Nice Big American Baby If I Told You Once You Must Be This Tall to Ride Little Labours Nice Big American Baby The Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol Liminality and the Short Story The Miniature Wife [The Bear Comes Home](#) The Best American Magazine Writing 2004 [If I Told You Once](#) Tokyo Cancelled In the Penny Arcade The Sad Kitchen [This Is Not Chick Lit](#) Children of the New World Short Story Index Toys and American Culture: An Encyclopedia Lawn Boy The Top Ten: Writers Pick Their Favorite Books [The Translator](#) Stories From the Vinyl Cafe Literary Lapses [Anatomy of Design](#) Gothic Dissections in Film and Literature [The Snowman](#) Newsweek Willful Creatures [Letters from the Avant-Garde](#) Magic For Beginners [Hamric & Hanson's Advanced Practice Nursing - E-Book](#) 2007 Novel & Short Story Writer's Market [Jottings from a Far Away Place](#) The Girl in the Flammable Skirt The Weight of Blood Best American Fantasy 2 The Colour Of Walls [Fantastic Women](#)

Harper Stevenson wants crisp, white, clean walls in his office. But walls have a history and a memory that can't simply be painted over. A Short History of Indians in Canada, Thomas King's bestselling collection of twenty tales, is a comic tour de force, showcasing the author at his hilarious and provocative best. With his razor-sharp observations and mystical characters, including the ever-present and ever-changing Coyote, King pokes a sharp stick into the gears of the Native myth-making machine, exposing the underbelly of both historical and contemporary Native-White relationships. Through the laughter, these stories shimmer brightly with the universal truths that unite us. HarperCollins brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperCollins short-stories collection to build your digital library. Years after the murder of her son, Helen Sampson has opened an underground, nighttime soup kitchen where people seek refuge when they are kept awake by a guilty conscience. But when one of her customers, Vern, writes a children's book that goes viral, The Sad Kitchen begins to attract public suspicion which calls into question Helen's motives. A blazingly original, profoundly moving new work of fiction by a writer whose world – and imagination – knows no boundaries. "I don't know what planet Judy Budnitz comes from," said Newsweek on the publication of her fiction debut, Flying Leap, "but I'm happy to have her. Tremendous . . . funny, dark, adventurous, slanted, and enchanted." These twelve astonishingly inventive stories – which take us into the heart of America and around the globe, from suburban backyards and swimming pools to war-torn streets and fallout shelters – are riveting, seductive, and impossible to forget. In "Flush," a mammogram prompts a dark comedy of blurred identities between a mother and her two adult daughters. In "Elephant and Boy," a surrogate mother-and-son bond, tinged with the erotic, is formed when a philanthropist attempts to "civilize" a young elephant handler. "Nadia" sounds the depths of a young woman's complex feelings toward a friend's mail-order bride from Eastern Europe. "Preparedness" – an Orwellian tale in Technicolor – imagines rapture in the wake of imminent apocalypse. And in "Where We Come From," a pregnant woman's many failed attempts to cross the border do not lessen her resolve to give birth on U.S. soil to a "nice big American baby." Magical, poignant, often transcendent, these are virtuoso modern fables that mine our stores of hidden urges, misunderstandings, and blind passions, inviting us on a voyage through places and times at once deeply familiar and wondrously strange. In her utterly original novel about mothers, daughters, and love, Judy Budnitz gives the traditional folktale an electrifying twist as she follows four generations of women from an Eastern European village to the tenements of an American city. Elena, born into a family ruled by a formidable mother, embarks on an epic journey to the New World, met along the way by evil, magic, and good fortune. The daughter, grand-daughter, and great-granddaughter who follow each share her special powers of observation and, often, destruction. The result is a family saga unlike any other: a hilarious, heartbreaking story of family ties that bind. In Willful Creatures Aimee Bender takes us on a journey to a fantastical world in which authentic love blossoms. This is a place where a boy with keys for fingers is a hero, a family of pumpkin heads embrace their ironhead son and potato-children dotingly follow their mother around as she completes her daily chores. With the mix of charm and keenly felt emotion that characterised her New York Times bestseller The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, Bender once again proves herself to be a masterful chronicler of the human condition. The best letterhead designs from 1915 to 1950. Compelling stories have the power to generate infinite wonder: It's nearly impossible to imagine how the author began, and yet we sense there's much more beyond the final word. It's this mystery – a combination of inspiration and craft, smoke and mirrors – that makes writing feel momentous. But it can also feel overwhelming, causing us to become small, scared, not quite ready for the "big" rides, such as finishing

that story, that novel, and finding the courage to share it with the world. In *You Must Be This Tall to Ride*, you'll find 20 works of fiction and nonfiction by acclaimed contemporary authors, each offering fresh perspective on "coming of age" (a story to which we can all relate), as well as exclusive personal essays and practical exercises. In their own words, these writers grant you a guided tour of craft with unparalleled access to the process behind their creation, including how to:

- grow a story from the seed of an image or sentence
- allow experiments with language to lead you to plot
- turn even the most unlikely characters into heroes
- transform raw anecdotes from your own life into compelling fiction and essay

Join 20 writers as we grow up and down, taking a rollercoaster ride in stories. You'll not only begin to understand what makes the wheels of a story turn, you'll also gain the tools and strategies to transform lost characters and runaway plots into the greatest show on earth. So go ahead, step right up. Listen for the calliope music, and take your place in line. Your ride has just begun.

CONTRIBUTORS:

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This is the first book-length study to systematically and theoretically analyse the use and representation of individual body parts in Gothic fiction. Moving between filmic and literary texts and across the body—from the brain, hair and teeth, to hands, skin and the stomach—this book engages in unique readings by foregrounding a diversity of global representations. Building on scholarly work on the 'Gothic body' and 'body horror', *Gothic Dissections in Film and Literature* dissects the individual features that comprise the physical human corporeal form in its different functions. This very original and accessible study, which will appeal to a broad range of readers interested in the Gothic, centralises the use (and abuse) of limbs, organs, bones and appendages. It presents a set of unique global examinations; from Brazil, France and South Korea to name a few; that address the materiality of the Gothic body in depth in texts ranging from the nineteenth century to the present; from Nikolai Gogol, Edgar Allan Poe, Roald Dahl and Chuck Palahniuk, to David Cronenberg, Freddy Krueger and *The Greasy Strangler*. Thirteen passengers are stranded at an airport. Tokyo, their destination, is covered in snow and all flights are cancelled. To pass the night they form a huddle by the silent baggage carousels and tell one another stories. Thus begins Rana Dasgupta's *Canterbury Tales* for our times. In the spirit of Borges and Calvino, Dasgupta's writing combines an energetically modern landscape with a timeless, beguiling fairy-tale ethos, while bringing to life a cast of extraordinary individuals—some lost, some confused, some happy—in a world that remains ineffable, inexplicable, and wonderful. A Ukrainian merchant is led by a wingless bird back to a lost lover; Robert De Niro's son masters the transubstantiation of matter and turns it against his enemies; a man who manipulates other people's memories has to confront his own past; a Japanese entrepreneur risks losing everything in his obsession with a doll; a mute Turkish girl is left alone in the house of a German man who is mapping the world. Told by people on a journey, these are stories about lives in transit, stories that grow into an epic cycle about the hopes and dreams and disappointments that connect people everywhere. What if you asked 125 top writers to pick their favorite books? Which titles would come out on top? You'll find the answer in *The Top Ten: Writers Pick Their Favorite Books*: the ultimate guide to the world's greatest books. As writers such as Norman Mailer, Annie Proulx, Stephen King, Jonathan Franzen, Claire Messud, Margaret Drabble, Michael Chabon and Peter Carey name the ten books that have meant the most to them, you'll be reminded of books you have always loved and introduced to works awaiting your discovery. The *Top Ten* includes summaries of 544 books—each of which is considered to be among the ten greatest books ever written by at least one leading writer. In addition to each writer's *Top Ten List*, the book features *Top Ten Lists* tabulated from their picks, including:

- The *Top Ten Books of All Time*
- The *Top Ten Books by Living Writers*
- The *Top Ten Books of the Twentieth Century*
- The *Top Ten Mysteries*
- The *Top Ten Comedies*

The *Top Ten* will help readers answer the most pressing question of all: What should I read next? A family saga featuring three generations of women who have the same problem with their daughter as their mother had with them. It begins with a teenage Jewish girl who flees the pogroms of Eastern Europe for America. Ranging on the fringes of imagination and erudition, forming a mosaic of stories, maxims and sketches, at once fragmentary and cumulative, *Jottings from a Far Away Place* combines the timeless, mannered assurance of the Eastern discursive essay with the experimentation of the Western avant-garde. As the focus shifts between fantastic tales and studies of viciousness, the reader is treated to, among myriad other things, the adventures of a Taoist guitar player, a bloody episode with Countess de Bathory, a recipe for cinnabar sauce, and the story of a man who has been reincarnated as a spoon. A book that is like a collection of bulletins from the world of dreams." Lists addresses and information on contacts, pay rates, and submission requirements, and includes essays on the craft of writing. For fans of Gillian Flynn, Scott Smith, and Daniel Woodrell comes a gripping, suspenseful novel about two mysterious disappearances a generation apart. **INTERNATIONAL THRILLER WRITERS AWARD WINNER AND**

BARRY AWARD NOMINEE FOR BEST FIRST NOVEL • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY BOOKPAGE

The town of Henbane sits deep in the Ozark Mountains. Folks there still whisper about Lucy Dane's mother, a bewitching stranger who appeared long enough to marry Carl Dane and then vanished when Lucy was just a child. Now on the brink of adulthood, Lucy experiences another loss when her friend Cheri disappears and is then found murdered, her body placed on display for all to see. Lucy's family has deep roots in the Ozarks, part of a community that is fiercely protective of its own. Yet despite her close ties to the land, and despite her family's influence, Lucy—darkly beautiful as her mother was—is always thought of by those around her as her mother's daughter. When Cheri disappears, Lucy is haunted by the two lost girls—the mother she never knew and the friend she couldn't save—and sets out with the help of a local boy, Daniel, to uncover the mystery behind Cheri's death. What Lucy discovers is a secret that pervades the secluded Missouri hills, and beyond that horrific revelation is a more personal one concerning what happened to her mother more than a decade earlier. *The Weight of Blood* is an urgent look at the dark side of a bucolic landscape beyond the arm of the law, where a person can easily disappear without a trace. Laura McHugh proves herself a masterly storyteller who has created a harsh and tangled terrain as alive and unforgettable as the characters who inhabit it. Her mesmerizing debut is a compelling exploration of the meaning of family: the sacrifices we make, the secrets we keep, and the lengths to which we will go to protect the ones we love. Praise for *The Weight of Blood* “[An] expertly crafted thriller.”—*Entertainment Weekly*, “The Must List” “Haunting . . . [a] riveting debut.”—*Los Angeles Times* “Laura McHugh's atmospheric debut . . . conjures a menacingly beautiful Ozark setting and a nest of poisonous family secrets reminiscent of Daniel Woodrell's *Winter's Bone*.”—*Vogue* “Fantastic . . . a mile-a-minute thriller.”—*The Dallas Morning News*

In the tradition of George Saunders and Aimee Bender, an exuberantly imagined debut that chronicles an ordinary world marked by unusual phenomena. The eighteen stories of Manuel Gonzales's exhilarating first book render the fantastic commonplace and the ordinary extraordinary, in prose that thrums with energy and shimmers with beauty. In “The Artist's Voice” we meet one of the world's foremost composers, a man who speaks through his ears. A hijacked plane circles a city for twenty years in “Pilot, Copilot, Writer.” Sound can kill in “The Sounds of Early Morning.” And, in the title story, a man is at war with the wife he accidentally shrank. For these characters, the phenomenal isn't necessarily special—but it's often dangerous. In slightly fantastical settings, Gonzales illustrates very real guilt over small and large marital missteps, the intense desire for the reinvention of self, and the powerful urges we feel to defend and provide for the people we love. With wit and insight, these stories subvert our expectations and challenge us to look at our surroundings with fresh eyes. Brilliantly conceived, strikingly original, and told with the narrative instinct of a born storyteller, *The Miniature Wife* is an unforgettable debut.

DIVAnatomy of Design dissects fifty examples of graphic design piece by piece, revealing an array of influences and inspirations. These pieces represent contemporary artifacts that are well conceived, finely crafted, and filled with hidden treasures. Some are overtly complex. Others are so simple that it is hard to believe there are a storehouse of inspiration hidden underneath. The selections include all kinds of design work including posters, packages, and more. Each exhibit is selected for its ubiquity, thematic import, and aesthetic significance, and every page shows how great work is derived from various inspirational and physical sources, some well-known, some unknown.

A collection of eighteen stories by contemporary female American authors. In the magazine world, no recognition is more highly coveted than an “Ellie,” presented by the American Society of Magazine Editors. Selected from thousands of submissions, the pieces in this anthology represent the very best of those -- outstanding works by some of the most eminent writers in America: Laura Hillenbrand (*Seabiscuit*) on living and creating with chronic fatigue syndrome Dave Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*) on love and surfing Mark Bowden (*Black Hawk Down*) on modern torture and the “landscape of persuasion” Seymour M. Hersh (*Chain of Command*) on the “selective intelligence” used by the White House to justify the war in Iraq Calvin Trillin (*The Tummy Trilogy*) on his favorite force of nature, the newsman R. W. Apple, Jr. Tucker Carlson (CNN's *Crossfire*), the “whitest man in America,” on a peace mission with Rev. Al Sharpton And many more! A *New York Times* Notable Book: “Aboulela's lovely, brief story encompasses worlds of melancholy and gulfs between cultures” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). American readers were introduced to the award-winning Sudanese author Leila Aboulela with *Minaret*, a delicate tale of a privileged young African Muslim woman adjusting to her new life as a maid in London. Now, for the first time in North America, we step back to her extraordinarily assured debut about a widowed Muslim mother living in Aberdeen who falls in love with a Scottish secular academic. Sammar is a Sudanese widow working as an Arabic translator at a Scottish university. Since the sudden death of her husband, her young son has gone to live with family in Khartoum, leaving Sammar alone in cold, gray Aberdeen, grieving and isolated. But when she begins to translate for Rae, a Scottish Islamic scholar, the two develop a deep friendship that awakens in Sammar all the longing for life she has repressed. As Rae and Sammar fall in love, she knows they will have to address his lack

of faith in all that Sammar holds sacred. An exquisitely crafted meditation on love, both human and divine, The Translator is ultimately the story of one woman's courage to stay true to her beliefs, herself, and her newfound love. "A story of love and faith all the more moving for the restraint with which it is written." —J. M. Coetzee

A book for those who want to learn magic tricks and don't know where to start from. Magic tricks begin with small and easy and then moves on to a bit harder ones. This book is related to all easy and simple tricks and just the book for beginners. Using, or rather mimicking, traditional forms of storytelling Gogol created stories that are complete within themselves and only tangentially connected to a meaning or moral. His work belongs to the school of invention, where each twist and turn of the narrative is a surprise unfettered by obligation to an overarching theme. Selected from *Evenings on a Farm near Dikanka*, *Mirgorod*, and the Petersburg tales and arranged in order of composition, the thirteen stories in *The Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol* encompass the breadth of Gogol's literary achievement. From the demon-haunted "St. John's Eve" to the heartrending humiliations and trials of a titular councilor in "The Overcoat," Gogol's knack for turning literary conventions on their heads combined with his overt joy in the art of story telling shine through in each of the tales. This translation, by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, is as vigorous and darkly funny as the original Russian. It allows readers to experience anew the unmistakable genius of a writer who paved the way for Dostoevsky and Kafka. A blazingly original, profoundly moving new work of fiction by a writer whose world – and imagination – knows no boundaries. "I don't know what planet Judy Budnitz comes from," said *Newsweek* on the publication of her fiction debut, *Flying Leap*, "but I'm happy to have her. Tremendous . . . funny, dark, adventurous, slanted, and enchanted." These twelve astonishingly inventive stories – which take us into the heart of America and around the globe, from suburban backyards and swimming pools to war-torn streets and fallout shelters – are riveting, seductive, and impossible to forget. In "Flush," a mammogram prompts a dark comedy of blurred identities between a mother and her two adult daughters. In "Elephant and Boy," a surrogate mother-and-son bond, tinged with the erotic, is formed when a philanthropist attempts to "civilize" a young elephant handler. "Nadia" sounds the depths of a young woman's complex feelings toward a friend's mail-order bride from Eastern Europe. "Preparedness" – an Orwellian tale in *Technicolor* – imagines rapture in the wake of imminent apocalypse. And in "Where We Come From," a pregnant woman's many failed attempts to cross the border do not lessen her resolve to give birth on U.S. soil to a "nice big American baby." Magical, poignant, often transcendent, these are virtuoso modern fables that mine our stores of hidden urges, misunderstandings, and blind passions, inviting us on a voyage through places and times at once deeply familiar and wondrously strange. Tracing developments in toy making and marketing across the evolving landscape of the 20th century, this encyclopedia is a comprehensive reference guide to America's most popular playthings and the culture to which they belong.

- Nearly 200 alphabetically arranged entries document the historical and cultural significance of toys
- Cross-references and a listing of additional resources accompany each entry and encourage further investigation
- Photographs and illustrations gathered from public and private collections across the country depict the entire century of America at play
- A guide to related topics identifies the entries according to broader categories such as toys, designers, companies, museums, events, and organizations
- A resource guide provides information for contacting American toy companies, accessing national toy museums, and attending annual toy festivals, and offers many avenues for pursuing further information about toys and American culture including books, scholarly journals, audio recordings, films, and websites

This surreal collection features such storylines as: a young man is persuaded to donate his heart to his dying mother; a girl comes of age in strange suburbia, her only friend a man dressed in a dogsuit; and a man and a woman conduct a passionate love affair on a park bench. Includes "After Yang," the basis for the acclaimed A24 film *After Yang*, starring Colin Farrell, Jodie Turner-Smith, and Haley Lu Richardson, and directed by Kogonada. A *New York Times* Notable Book "A darkly mesmerizing, fearless, and exquisitely written work. Stunning, harrowing, and brilliantly imagined." —Emily St. John Mandel, author of *Station Eleven*

Children of the New World introduces readers to a near-future world of social media implants, memory manufacturers, dangerously immersive virtual reality games, and alarmingly intuitive robots. Many of these characters live in a utopian future of instant connection and technological gratification that belies an unbridgeable human distance, while others inhabit a post-collapse landscape made primitive by disaster, which they must work to rebuild as we once did millennia ago. In "The Cartographers," the main character works for a company that creates and sells virtual memories, while struggling to maintain a real-world relationship sabotaged by an addiction to his own creations. In "After Yang," the robotic brother of an adopted Chinese child malfunctions, and only in his absence does the family realize how real a son he has become. *Children of the New World* grapples with our unease in this modern world and how our ever-growing dependence on new technologies has changed the shape of our society. Alexander Weinstein is a visionary and singular voice in speculative fiction for all of us who are fascinated by and terrified of what we might find on the horizon. A saxophone-playing bear breaks out of

a novelty act and starts a serious jazz career, which alternately lands him in jail, with a recording contract, and in love with a beautiful woman named Iris. A first novel. First serial, Musician. The Brothers Grimm take lessons in fiction from Angela Carter to produce this uncanny and surreal work. Edited and written by a Who's Who of internationally known advanced practice nursing experts, Hamric and Hanson's *Advanced Practice Nursing: An Integrative Approach*, 6th Edition helps you develop an understanding of the various advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) roles. This bestselling textbook provides a clear, comprehensive, and contemporary introduction to advanced practice nursing today, addressing all major APRN competencies, roles, and issues. It covers topics ranging from the evolution of advanced practice nursing to evidence-based practice, leadership, ethical decision-making, and health policy. New to this edition is expanded coverage of interprofessional collaborative practice, updated coverage of APRN roles related to implementation of healthcare reform in the U.S., updated and expanded coverage of IOM and QSEN, a global focus on international advanced practice nursing, and much more! Coverage of all APN core competencies defines and describes all competencies, including direct clinical practice, guidance and coaching, consultation, evidence-based practice, leadership, collaboration, and ethical decision-making. Operationalizes and applies the APN core competencies to the major APN specialties including the Clinical Nurse Specialist, the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, the Certified Nurse-Midwife, and the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Content on managing APN environments addresses such factors as business planning and reimbursement; marketing, negotiating, and contracting; regulatory, legal, and credentialing requirements; health policy; and nursing outcomes and performance improvement research. UNIQUE! Exemplar boxes (case studies), including Day in the Life vignettes of each APN specialty, emphasize innovative practices and coverage of advanced practice roles. In-depth discussions of educational strategies for APN competency development show how nurses develop competencies as they progress into advanced practice. NEW and UNIQUE! Expanded coverage of interprofessional collaborative practice includes the latest Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. NEW! Updated coverage of APRN roles related to implementation of healthcare in the U.S. reflects current and anticipated changes in APRN roles related to healthcare reform. NEW! Coverage of IOM and QSEN has been updated and expanded. NEW! Refocused International Development of Advanced Practice Nursing chapter has been rewritten to be more global and inclusive in focus, to reflect the state of advanced practice nursing practice throughout all major regions of the world. NEW! Expanded content on the role of advanced practice nurses in teaching/education/mentoring and health policy related to the APRN role is featured in the 6th edition. A prestigious anthology series, *Best American Fantasy* is guest edited by Ann & Jeff VanderMeer, with Matthew Cheney serving as the series editor, showcasing the best North American fantasy short fiction from the preceding year. Paranoid fast paced thriller, how not to get rid of some Peruvian flake. The seven stories of *In the Penny Arcade* blend both the real and the fantastic in a seductive mix that illuminates the full range of Steven Millhauser's gifts, from *August Eschenburg*, the story of a clockmaker's son whose extraordinary talent for creating animated figures is lost on a world whose taste for the perverse and crude supersedes that of the refined and beautiful, to *Cathay*, a kingdom whose wonders include landscape paintings executed on the bodies of court ladies. Chick lit: A genre of fiction that often recycles the following plot: Girl in big city desperately searches for Mr. Right in between dieting and shopping for shoes. Girl gets dumped (sometimes repeatedly). Girl finds Prince Charming. *This Is Not Chick Lit* is a celebration of America's most dynamic literary voices, as well as a much needed reminder that, for every stock protagonist with a designer handbag and three boyfriends, there is a woman writer pushing the envelope of literary fiction with imagination, humor, and depth. The original short stories in this collection touch on some of the same themes as chick lit – the search for love and identity – but they do so with extraordinary power, creativity, and range; they are also political, provocative, and, at turns, utterly surprising. Featuring marquee names as well as burgeoning talents, *This Is Not Chick Lit* will nourish your heart, and your mind. Including these original stories: "The Thing Around Your Neck" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie "Two Days" by Aimee Bender "An Open Letter to Doctor X" by Francine Prose "Gabe" by Holiday Reinhorn "Documents of Passion Love" by Carolyn Ferrell "Volunteers Are Shining Stars" by Curtis Sittenfeld "Selling the General" by Jennifer Egan "The Seventy-two-Ounce Steak Challenge" by Dika Lam "Love Machine" by Samantha Hunt "Ava Bean" by Jennifer S. Davis "Embrace" by Roxana Robinson "The Epiphany Branch" by Mary Gordon "Joan, Jeanne, La Pucelle, Maid of Orléans" by Judy Budnitz "Gabiella, My Heart" by Cristina Henríquez "The Red Coat" by Caitlin Macy "The Matthew Effect" by Binnie Kirshenbaum "The Recipe" by Lynne Tillman "Meaning of Ends" by Martha Witt Praise for *This Is Not Chick Lit* "This Is Not Chick Lit is important not only for its content, but for its title. I'll know we're getting somewhere when equally talented male writers feel they have to separate themselves from the endless stream of fiction glorifying war, hunting and sports by naming an anthology *This Is Not a Guy Thing*."—Gloria Steinem "These voices, diverse and almost eerily resonant, offer us a

refreshing breath of womanhood-untamed, ungroomed, and unglossed.”—Elle Literary Lapses is book by Stephen Leacock. It presents a series of short humorous sketches, with themes such as: How to Make a Million Dollars, How to Live to be 200, How to Avoid Getting Married, Self-made Men and many more. Winner of the Alex Award “Mike Muñoz Is a Holden Caulfield for a New Millennium--a '10th-generation peasant with a Mexican last name, raised by a single mom on an Indian reservation' . . . Evison, as in his previous four novels, has a light touch and humorously guides the reader, this time through the minefield that is working-class America.” --The New York Times Book Review For Mike Muñoz, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and still doing menial work--and just fired from his latest gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew--he's smart enough to know that he's got to be the one to shake things up if he's ever going to change his life. But how? He's not qualified for much of anything. He has no particular talents, although he is stellar at handling a lawn mower and wielding clipping shears. But now that career seems to be behind him. So what's next for Mike Muñoz? In this funny, biting, touching, and ultimately inspiring novel, bestselling author Jonathan Evison takes the reader into the heart and mind of a young man determined to achieve the American dream of happiness and prosperity--who just so happens to find himself along the way. AN OBSERVER BOOK OF THE YEAR A droll and dazzling compendium of observations, stories, lists, and brief essays about babies. 'Beguiling ... A wunderkabinett of baby-related curios ... A peculiar book, and astonishing in its effect.' Boston Globe In The Girl in the Flammable Skirt Aimee Bender has created a world where nothing is quite as it seems. From a man suffering from reverse evolution to a lonely wife who waits for her husband to return from war; to a small town where one girl has a hand made of fire and another has one made of ice. These stories of men and women whose lives are shaped and sometimes twisted by the power of extraordinary desires take us to a place far beyond the imagination. This book is a study of the short story, one of the widest taught genres in English literature, from an innovative methodological perspective. Both liminality and the short story are well-researched phenomena, but the combination of both is not frequent. This book discusses the relevance of the concept of liminality for the short story genre and for short story cycles, emphasizing theoretical perspectives, methodological relevance and applicability. Liminality as a concept of demarcation and mediation between different processual stages, spatial complexes, and inner states is of obvious importance in an age of global mobility, digital networking, and interethnic transnationality. Over the last decade, many symposia, exhibitions, art, and publications have been produced which thematize liminality, covering a wide range of disciplines including literary, geographical, psychological and ethnicity studies. Liminal structuring is an essential aspect of the aesthetic composition of short stories and the cultural messages they convey. On account of its very brevity and episodic structure, the generic liminality of the short story privileges the depiction of transitional situations and fleeting moments of crisis or decision. It also addresses the moral transgressions, heterotopic orders, and forms of ambivalent self-reflection negotiated within the short story's confines. This innovative collection focuses on both the liminality of the short story and on liminality in the short story. Like an old friend who's turned up in town, Stuart McLean returns with *Stories from the Vinyl Cafe*, his bestselling collection of tales based on his enormously popular Vinyl Cafe radio program. The collection features Canada's much-loved fictional family: Dave, Morley, Stephanie and Sam. *Stories from the Vinyl Cafe* also introduces a host of other wonderfully imagined characters, such as Margaret Dwyer, a suburban housewife who startles herself by shoplifting a pepperoni sausage, and Flora Perriton, who is consumed with thoughts of lost opportunities when an old friend passes away. Then there's Ed, who-overcome by the death of his favourite rock star-embarks on a pilgrimage to New York City to meet the singer's widow. As always, the stories in this rewarding and irreverent collection prove that Stuart McLean is indeed a national treasure.

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