

Bad Behavior Mary Gaitskill

'Gets deep under your skin ... Gaitskill is uniquely attuned to the moment.' Sunday Times
Gaitskill achieves a superb feat. She distils the suffering, anger, reactivity, danger and social recalibration of the #MeToo movement into an extremely potent, intelligent and nuanced account. Sarah Hall, Guardian
'I don't know why I behaved the way I did, and I kept doing it; he kept doing it. And though I might once have easily brushed it away, suddenly I could not. Nor could I confront him. The

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conversation moved too quickly.'This is Pleasure is an extraordinary work by one of the world's finest writers, and achieves more in 15,000 words than most full-length novels. Following the unravelling of the life of a male publisher undone by allegations of sexual impropriety and harassment, and the female friend who tries to understand, and explain, his actions, it looks unflinchingly at our present moment and rejects moral certainties to show us that there are many sides to every story. Mary Gaitskill has spent her whole career mining the complexity of human relationships on both

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an individual and societal scale with wisdom and grace. Here her insights are more piercing and timely than ever. 'Mary Gaitskill is willing to think about the problematic with complexity and humanity, and without taking sides or engaging in all the fashionable moral hectoring that passes for serious thought these days.' Eimear McBride Nuanced, daring and tender, these essays from the celebrated author of This is Pleasure and Bad Behavior, consistently fascinate and provoke. Mary Gaitskill takes on a broad range of topics from Nabokov to horse-riding with her unique ability to tease out unexpected truths

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and cast aside received wisdom. Written with startling grace and linguistic flair, and delving into the complicated nature of love and the responsibility we owe to the people we encounter, the work collected here inspires the reader to think beyond their first responses to life and art. Spanning thirty years of Mary Gaitskill's writing, and covering subjects as diverse as *Dancer in the Dark*, the world of Charles Dickens and the *Book of Revelation* with her characteristic blend of sincerity and wit, *Oppositions* is never less than enthralling. A haunting, provocative novel, *You Feel It Just Below*

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the Ribs is a fictional autobiography in an alternate twentieth century that chronicles one woman's unusual life, including the price she pays to survive and the cost her choices hold for the society she is trying to save. Born at the end of the old world, Miriam grows up during The Great Reckoning, a sprawling, decades-long war that nearly decimates humanity and strips her of friends and family. Devastated by grief and loneliness, she emotionally exiles herself, avoiding relationships or allegiances, and throws herself into her work—disengagement that serves her when the war

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finally ends, and The New Society arises. To ensure a lasting peace, The New Society forbids anything that may cause tribal loyalties, including traditional families. Suddenly, everyone must live as Miriam has chosen to—disconnected and unattached. A researcher at heart, Miriam becomes involved in implementing this detachment process. She does not know it is the beginning of a darkly sinister program that will transform this new world and the lives of everyone in it. Eventually, the harmful effects of her research become too much for Miriam, and she devises a secret plan to destroy the

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system from within, endangering her own life. But is her "confession" honest—or is it a fabrication riddled with lies meant to conceal the truth? A jarring and uncanny tale of loss, trauma, and the power of human connection and deception, You Feel It Just Below the Ribs is a portrait of a disturbing alternate world eerily within reach, and an examination of the difficult choices we must make to survive in it. This captivating novel shimmers with dark intensity and wicked wit. In a stunning synthesis of eroticism, rage, pathos, and humor, Gaitskill's "fine storyteller's pace and brilliant metaphors" (The New

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York Times Book Review)
create a haunting and
unforgettable journey into the
dark side of contemporary life
and the deepest recesses of
the soul.

Today I'm Yours

Eat My Heart Out

The Lady with the Little Dog
and Other Stories, 1896-1904

Bad Behaviour

Veronica

In essays on matters literary,
social, cultural, and personal,
Mary Gaitskill explores date
rape and political adultery, the
transcendentalism of the
Talking Heads, the melancholy
of Björk, and the playfulness
of artist Laurel Nakadate. She

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celebrates the clownish grandiosity and the poetry of Norman Mailer's long career and maps the sociosexual cataclysm embodied by porn star Linda Lovelace. Witty, wide-ranging, tender, and beautiful, Somebody with a Little Hammer displays the same heat-seeking, revelatory understanding for which Gaitskill's writing has always been known.

**Best Book of Fall (Esquire)
and a Most Anticipated Book
of 2021 (Lit Hub) What Has
Happened to Fiction in the
Age of Platform Capitalism?
Since it was first launched in**

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1994, Amazon has changed the world of literature. The “Everything Store” has not just transformed how we buy books; it has affected what we buy, and even what we read. In Everything and Less, acclaimed critic Mark McGurl explores this new world where writing is no longer categorized as high or lowbrow, literature or popular fiction. Charting a course spanning from Henry James to E. L. James, McGurl shows that contemporary writing has less to do with writing per se than with the manner of its distribution. This consumerist

logic—if you like this, you might also like ...—has reorganized the fiction universe so that literary prize-winners sit alongside fantasy, romance, fan fiction, and the infinite list of hybrid genres and self-published works. This is an innovation to be cautiously celebrated. Amazon’s platform is not just a retail juggernaut but an aesthetic experiment driven by an unseen algorithm rivaling in the depths of its effects any major cultural shift in history. Here all fiction is genre fiction, and the niches range from the categories of

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crime and science fiction to the more refined interests of Adult Baby Diaper Lover erotica. Everything and Less is a hilarious and insightful map of both the commanding heights and sordid depths of fiction, past and present, that opens up an arresting conversation about why it is we read and write fiction in the first place.

**A collection of startling and breathtaking stories about people struggling with the disparity between what they want and what they know. A New York Times Notable Book
A man tells a story to a woman**

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sitting beside him on a plane, little suspecting what it reveals about his capacity for cruelty and contempt. A callow runaway girl is stranded in a strange city with another woman's fractiously needy children. An uncomprehending father helplessly lashes out at the daughter he both loves and resents. In these raw, startling, and incandescently lovely stories, the author of *Veronica* yields twelve indelible portraits of people struggling with the disparity between what they want and what they know. **Because They Wanted**

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To is further evidence that Gaitskill is one of the fiercest, funniest, and most subversively compassionate writers at work today.

In the final years of his life, Chekhov had reached the height of his powers as a dramatist, and also produced some of the stories that rank among his masterpieces. The poignant 'The Lady with the Little Dog' and 'About Love' examine the nature of love outside of marriage - its romantic idealism and the fear of disillusionment. And in stories such as 'Peasants', 'The House with the

Mezzanine' and 'My Life'
Chekhov paints a vivid picture of the conditions of the poor and of their powerlessness in the face of exploitation and hardship. With the works collected here, Chekhov moved away from the realism of his earlier tales - developing a broader range of characters and subject matter, while forging the spare minimalist style that would inspire such modern short-story writers as Hemingway and Faulkner.

The Riverman
Bonding
Maggie Brown & Others

You Feel It Just Below the Ribs

Origin and Government of the District of Columbia

"A teen thriller in the vein of the '90s horror movie *The Craft* . . . A beautiful meditation on meditation . . . Frequently hilarious, and thoughtful throughout."

—The New York Times Book Review "The Lightness could be the love child of Donna Tartt and Tana French, but its savage, glittering magic is all Emily Temple's own." —Chloe Benjamin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Immortalists* A Belletrist Book Club Pick! A Most Anticipated Novel by Entertainment Weekly • USA Today • Marie Claire • Elle • WSJ. Magazine • Glamour • Vulture • Bustle • BuzzFeed • The Millions • The Philadelphia Inquirer • Minneapolis Star Tribune • The Daily

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Beast • Refinery 29 • Publishers Weekly • Literary Hub • Electric Literature • and more! A stylish, stunningly precise, and suspenseful meditation on adolescent desire, female friendship, and the female body that shimmers with rage, wit, and fierce longing—an audacious, darkly observant, and mordantly funny literary debut for fans of Emma Cline, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Jenny Offill. One year ago, the person Olivia adores most in the world, her father, left home for a meditation retreat in the mountains and never returned. Yearning to make sense of his shocking departure and to escape her overbearing mother—a woman as grounded as her father is mercurial—Olivia runs away from home and retraces his path to a place known as the Levitation Center. Once there, she enrolls in their summer program for troubled teens, which Olivia refers to as

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“Buddhist Boot Camp for Bad Girls”. Soon, she finds herself drawn into the company of a close-knit trio of girls determined to transcend their circumstances, by any means necessary. Led by the elusive and beautiful Serena, and her aloof, secretive acolytes, Janet and Laurel, the girls decide this is the summer they will finally achieve enlightenment—and learn to levitate, to defy the weight of their bodies, to experience ultimate lightness. But as desire and danger intertwine, and Olivia comes ever closer to discovering what a body—and a girl—is capable of, it becomes increasingly clear that this is an advanced and perilous practice, and there’s a chance not all of them will survive. Set over the course of one fateful summer that unfolds like a fever dream, *The Lightness* juxtaposes fairy tales with quantum physics, cognitive science with

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religious fervor, and the passions and obsessions of youth with all of these, to explore concepts as complex as faith and as simple as loving people—even though you don't, and can't, know them at all.

"A suspenseful debut." –People Pick

A finalist for the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award, here is an evocative novel about female friendship in the glittering 1980s. Alison and Veronica meet amid the nocturnal glamour of 1980s New York: One is a young model stumbling away from the wreck of her career, the other an eccentric middle-aged office temp. Over the next twenty years their friendship will encompass narcissism and tenderness, exploitation and self-sacrifice, love and mortality. Moving seamlessly from present and past, casting a fierce yet compassionate eye on two eras and their fixations, the result is a work of timeless

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depth and moral power.

A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month" Selection It was the first autumn of the Iraq War, when Ella saw Dani again.

"Today I'm Yours" is a story of seduction and layered memory, a love affair fifteen years past but not forgotten—from the author of the National Book Award nominated and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist *Veronica*. Mary Gaitskill is widely acclaimed as a caustically sharp observer of American culture high and low, of bodily temptations and sensual intelligence. A selection from Gaitskill's story collection, *Don't Cry*, a New York Times Notable Book. An eBook short. A collection of stories unfolding against the backdrop of American life over the last thirty years includes "College Town 1980," "The Little Boy," and "Mirror Ball," in which a young man steals a

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girl's soul during a one-night stand.

The Devil's Treasure

Cat Person

Lost Cat

Emperor of the Air

Self-Help

"Following an overdose of painkillers, Daniel Fletcher is resuscitated in a Los Angeles emergency room and detained for psychiatric evaluation. Through a series of tests, the psychiatrist must ascertain whether the patient intended to kill himself, or whether he can walk free. What the psychiatrist doesn't know is that 'Daniel Fletcher' is actually John Dolan Vincent, a brilliant forger who continually changes his identity to save himself from a lifetime of incarceration. John has done such assessments before - many, many times." "While he creates an elaborate bluff for the evaluator, John

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reveals the true story of his traumatic past. But time is running out; as his underworld clients lose patience and the psychiatrist's net closes around him, he must negotiate the escape act of his life." "Evoking the boulevards and strip bars of 1980s LA with cinematic intensity, *The Contortionist's Handbook* is a darkly hypnotic and original debut." --BOOK JACKET.

In the latest volume in Ig's acclaimed *Bookmarked* series, award-winning author JoAnna Novak draws on the themes of Mary Gaitskill's *Bad Behavior* - power, desire, identification, and misidentification - to explore the sudden termination of a two-decade-long friendship and the blurred borders of artistic influence.

In difficult times, debt can be a matter of

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life and death, happiness and despair. Controlling your debt can bring order and calm. Mastering debt can bring wealth and success. As bestselling Rich Dad/Poor Dad author Robert Kiyosaki says, “ Good debt makes you rich and bad debt makes you poor. ” The ABCs of Getting Out of Debt provides the necessary knowledge to navigate through a very challenging credit environment. A Rich Dad ’ s Advisor and best selling author of numerous business books, Garrett Sutton, Esq. clearly writes on the key strategies readers must follow to get out of debt. Unlike other superficial offerings, Sutton explores the psychology and health effects of debt. From there, the reader learns how to beat the lenders at their own game, and how to understand and repair your own credit.

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Using real life illustrative stories, Sutton shares how to deal with debt collectors, avoid credit scams, and win with good credit. “ The reason Garrett Sutton ’ s book is so important is that like it or not, debt is a powerful force in our world today. The financially intelligent are using debt to enrich themselves while the financially uneducated are using debt to destroy their lives. ” - Robert Kiyosaki

The times call for a book that offers hope and education on mastering credit and getting out of debt.

From the author of the National Book Award – nominated *Veronica*: Mary Gaitskill's most poignant and powerful work yet—the story of a Dominican girl, the white woman who introduces her to riding, and the horse who changes everything for her *Velveteen* Vargas is

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eleven years old, a Fresh Air Fund kid from Brooklyn. Her host family is a couple in upstate New York: Ginger, a failed artist on the fringe of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Paul, an academic who wonders what it will mean to “ make a difference ” in such a contrived situation. The Mare illuminates the couple's changing relationship with Velvet over the course of several years, as well as Velvet's powerful encounter with the horses at the stable down the road, as Gaitskill weaves together Velvet's vital inner-city community and the privileged country world of Ginger and Paul. The timeless story of a girl and a horse is joined with the timeless story of people from different races and socioeconomic backgrounds trying to meet one another honestly in a novel that is raw, striking,

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and completely original.

A Story

The Lightness

Turn Bad Debt into Good Debt and Bad Credit into Good Credit

Selected Essays

Essays

A re-release of a National Book Award finalist debut collection by the author of *Because They Wanted To* follows such themes as dislocation and longing in a series of tales that reflect the experiences of a disenchanting and rebellious urban-fringe generation.

Reprint.

Perfect for beginning readers, this timeless chapter book is a fun introduction to the detective mystery genre. And for Valentine's Day, kids can follow Nate as he unravels the problem, all the while learning about

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the importance of friendship--with people and dogs! Nate the Great hates mushy stuff. Then he spies a big red paper heart taped to Sludge's doghouse. Who left Nate's dog a secret valentine? Nate will solve the case, and then there will be no more mushy stuff. At least that's what he thinks. . . . Check out the Fun Activities section in the back of the book! "A most appealing choice."—Booklist, Boxed Review

A young woman anxiously waits for her date on a street corner in New York City; he sits in a pizza parlour across the street, watching her discomfort. A middle-aged woman returns to a New York that is haunted by the passion and intensity of her former relationship with her estranged best friend. A secretarial graduate starts her first job at a lawyer's office

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and quietly keeps her cruel experiences at his hands locked inside herself. The stories in this collection peer deep into the inner lives of men and women, explore the cavernous spaces between what we say and what can be expressed, and are full of tenderness and cruelty. Published for the first time in Penguin Modern Classics, *Bad Behaviour* provides a devastatingly insightful and urgently necessary view of our times.

In this powerful and virtuosic collection of interlocking stories, each one "a marvel of concision and compassion" (*Washington Post*), a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist and "master of his form" (*New York Times*) takes the short story to new heights. Through forty-four compressed gems, Peter Orner, a writer who "doesn't simply bring his

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characters to life, he gives them souls" (NYT Book Review), chronicles people whose lives are at inflection points, gripping us with a series of defining moments. Whether it's a first date that turns into a late-night road trip to a séance in an abandoned airplane hangar, or a family's memories of the painful mystery surrounding a neglected uncle's demise, Orner reveals how our fleeting decisions between kindness and abandonment chase us across time. These stories are anchored by a poignant novella that delivers not only the joys and travails of a forty-year marriage, but an entire era in a working-class New England city. Bristling with the crackling energy of life itself, *Maggie Brown & Others* marks the most sustained achievement to date for "a master of his form" (New York Times).

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A New York Times Notable Book A
Chicago Tribune Notable Book An
Oprah Magazine Best Book of 2019
Kirkus Reviews Best Short Fiction of
2019 Longlisted for the Simpson/Joyce
Carol Oates Prize

Because They Wanted To
Everything and Less
Oppositions

Mary Gaitskill's Bad Behavior:
Bookmarked

Somebody with a Little Hammer

A trade paperback reissue of
National Book Award finalist Mary
Gaitskill's debut collection, *Bad
Behavior*—powerful stories about
dislocation, longing, and desire
which depict a disenchanting and
rebellious urban fringe generation
that is searching for human
connection. • Now a classic: *Bad
Behavior* made critical waves when

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it first published, heralding Gaitskill's arrival on the literary scene and her establishment as one of the sharpest, erotically charged, and audaciously funny writing talents of contemporary literature. Michiko Kakutani of The New York Times called it "Pinteresque," saying, "Ms. Gaitskill writes with such authority, such radar-perfect detail, that she is able to make even the most extreme situations seem real... her reportorial candor, uncompromised by sentimentality or voyeuristic charm...underscores the strength of her debut."

"This steamy and intellectual debut novel is an ode to the female body, and to a young woman discovering the potential boundlessness of her pleasure."—Refinery 29, "The Sexiest Books You'll Ever Have the

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Pleasure of Reading" Roxana Olsen has always dreamed of going to Paris, and after high school graduation finally plans to travel there on a study abroad program—a welcome reprieve from the bruising fallout of her parents' divorce. But a logistical mix-up brings Roxana to Copenhagen instead, where she's picked up at the airport by Søren, a twenty-eight-year-old guide who is meant to be her steward. Instantly drawn to one another, Roxana and Søren's relationship turns romantic, and when he asks Roxana to accompany him to a small coastal town for the rest of the summer, she doesn't hesitate to accept. There, Roxana's world narrows and expands as she experiences fantasy, ritual, and the pleasures of her body, a thrilling

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realm of erotic and domestic bliss. Seduced by this newfound connection, Roxana doesn't object when Søren requests that she spend her days alone in the apartment while he goes to the library to work. As their relationship deepens, Søren's temperament darkens, and Roxana finds herself increasingly drawn to a local outsider, Zlatan, whom she learns is a Muslim refugee from the Bosnian War. The cycle of awakenings sparked by these two relationships challenge and open Roxana in ways she never imagined. A coming-of-age like no other, from a magnetic new voice in fiction, *Open Me* "is unflinching in its portrayal of sex, desire, racism, and the excitement and confusion of youth. Infused with erotics and politics, this is a

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novel that will haunt you" (Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author).

Starting with *Bad Behavior* in the 1980s, Mary Gaitskill has been writing about gender relations with searing, even prophetic honesty. In *This Is Pleasure*, she considers our present moment through the lens of a particular #MeToo incident. The effervescent, well-dressed Quin, a successful book editor and fixture on the New York arts scene, has been accused of repeated unforgivable transgressions toward women in his orbit. But are they unforgivable? And who has the right to forgive him? To Quin's friend Margot, the wrongdoing is less clear. Alternating Quin's and Margot's voices and perspectives, Gaitskill creates a nuanced

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tragicomedy, one that reveals her characters as whole persons—hurtful and hurting, infuriating and touching, and always deeply recognizable. Gaitskill has said that fiction is the only way that she could approach this subject because it is too emotionally faceted to treat in the more rational essay form. 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 gesture of humanity from one of our greatest contemporary writers.

She thought, brightly, This is the worst life decision I have ever made! And she marvelled at herself for a while, at the mystery of this

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person who'd just done this bizarre, inexplicable thing. Margot meets Robert. They exchange numbers. They text, flirt and eventually have sex - the type of sex you attempt to forget. How could one date go so wrong? Everything that takes place in *Cat Person* happens to countless people every day. But *Cat Person* is not an everyday story. In less than a week, Kristen Roupenian's *New Yorker* debut became the most read and shared short story in their website's history. This is the bad date that went viral. This is the conversation we're all having. You Know You Want This, Kristen Roupenian's debut collection, will be published in February 2019. Angela Carter's *Book Of Fairy Tales*
The Mare
Open Me

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Bad Behavior

Don't Cry

Once upon a time fairy tales weren't meant just for children, and neither is Angela Carter's Book of Fairy Tales. This stunning collection contains lyrical tales, bloody tales and hilariously funny and ripely bawdy stories from countries all around the world- from the Arctic to Asia - and no dippy princesses or sappy fairies. Instead, we have pretty maids and old crones; crafty women and bad girls; enchantresses and midwives; rascal aunts

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and odd sisters. This fabulous celebration of strong minds, low cunning, black arts and dirty tricks could only have been collected by the unique and much-missed Angela Carter. Illustrated throughout with original woodcuts.

An eerie, alienating, yet comic and profoundly sympathetic short story collection about Americans in America by one of Indonesia's most prominent writers, now in an English translation for its fortieth anniversary, with a foreword by Intan

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Paramaditha A Penguin Classic In these seven stories of The People from Bloomington, our peculiar narrators find themselves in the most peculiar of circumstances and encounter the most peculiar of people. Set in Bloomington, Indiana, where the author lived as a graduate student in the 1970s, this is far from the idyllic portrait of small-town America. Rather, sectioned into apartment units and rented rooms, and gridded by long empty streets and distances traversable only

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by car, it's a place where the solitary can all too easily remain solitary; where people can at once be obsessively curious about others, yet fail to form genuine connections with anyone. The characters feel their loneliness acutely and yet deliberately estrange others. Budi Darma paints a realist world portrayed through an absurdist frame, morbid and funny at the same time. For decades, Budi Darma has influenced and inspired many writers, artists, filmmakers, and readers in

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Indonesia, yet his stories transcend time and place. With *The People from Bloomington*, Budi Darma draws us to a universality recognized by readers around the world—the cruelty of life and the difficulties that people face in relating to one another while negotiating their own identities. The stories are not about “strangeness” in the sense of culture, race, and nationality. Instead, they are a statement about how everyone, regardless of nationality or race, is strange, and subject to

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the same tortures, suspicions, yearnings, and peculiarities of the mind.

"Brisk, ironic ... scalpel-sharp.... A funny, cohesive, and moving collection of stories."

--The New York Times Book Review In these tales of loss and pleasure, lovers and family, a woman learns to conduct an affair, a child of divorce dances with her mother, and a woman with a terminal illness contemplates her exit. Filled with the sharp humor, emotional acuity, and joyful language Moore has become

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famous for, these nine glittering tales marked the introduction of an extravagantly gifted writer.

Explores the beauty and mystery in everyday existence.

The Contortionist's Handbook

Stories

The Novel in the Age of Amazon

This Is Pleasure

People from Bloomington

Mary Gaitskill returns with a luminous new collection of stories—her first in more than ten years. In “College Town 1980,” young people adrift in Ann Arbor debate

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the meaning of personal strength at the start of the Reagan era; in the urban fairy tale "Mirrorball," a young man steals a girl's soul during a one-night stand; in "The Little Boy," a woman haunted by the death of her former husband is finally able to grieve through a mysterious encounter with a needy child. Each story delivers the powerful, original language, and the dramatic engagement of the intelligent mind with the craving body—or of the intelligent body with the craving mind—that has come to be seen as stunningly emblematic of Gaitskill's

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fiction.

A collection of stories inspired by cats and their relationships with humans. This selection of Poe's critical writings, short fiction and poetry demonstrates an intense interest in aesthetic issues and the astonishing power and imagination with which he probed the darkest corners of the human mind. The Fall of the House of Usher describes the final hours of a family tormented by tragedy and the legacy of the past. In the Tell Tale Heart, a murderer's insane delusions threaten to betray him, while stories such as The Pit and the Pendulum and

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the Cask of Amontillado
explore extreme states of decadence, fear and hate. At twenty-three, Ann-Marie is single, broke, and furious, and convinced that love—sweet love!—is the answer to all of her problems. Then she meets legendary second wave feminist Stephanie Haight, who becomes obsessed with the idea that she can save Ann-Marie and her entire generation. From Little Mermaid-themed warehouse parties and ritual worship ceremonies summoning ancient goddesses to disastrous one-night stands with strikingly unsuitable men, Ann-Marie hurtles through London and

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life. Fiercely clever and unapologetically wild, Eat My Heart Out is the satire for our narcissistic, hedonistic, post-postfeminist era.

Two Girls, Fat and Thin

OPPOSITIONS

The ABCs of Getting Out of Debt

The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Writings

Nate the Great and the Mushy Valentine

"Maggie understands that splatter for splatter's sake is boring.

Psychopathy is boring. Coldness is boring. She's interested in feeling, and when her stories turn violent (as they frequently do), it's with a surreal emotional barbarity that

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distorts the entire world. You can mop up blood with any fabric. Maggie's concern is with the wound left behind, because the wound never leaves-it haunts. As a result, each of these stories leaves a wound of its own. Some weep, watching as you try (and fail) to recover. Others laugh. But never without feeling."

-B.R. Yeager, author of *Negative Space* "And once finished, I felt like my tongue had been misplaced, guts heavy and expanded ... gums numb with a tongue that'd been put elsewhere, my mouth clean around a pipe weaving up through pitch and shadow ... and well past ready, primed for delight, waiting but knowing I had already been filled to

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skin; crying shit, hearing piss,
fingernails seeping bile, pores
dribbling blood, soles slopping off
and out to meet a drain mid-floor ..."

-Christopher Norris, author of

Hunchback '88

Cat Stories

A Novel