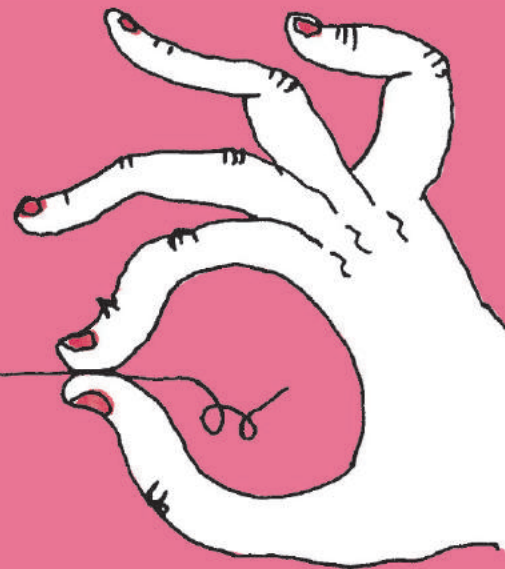
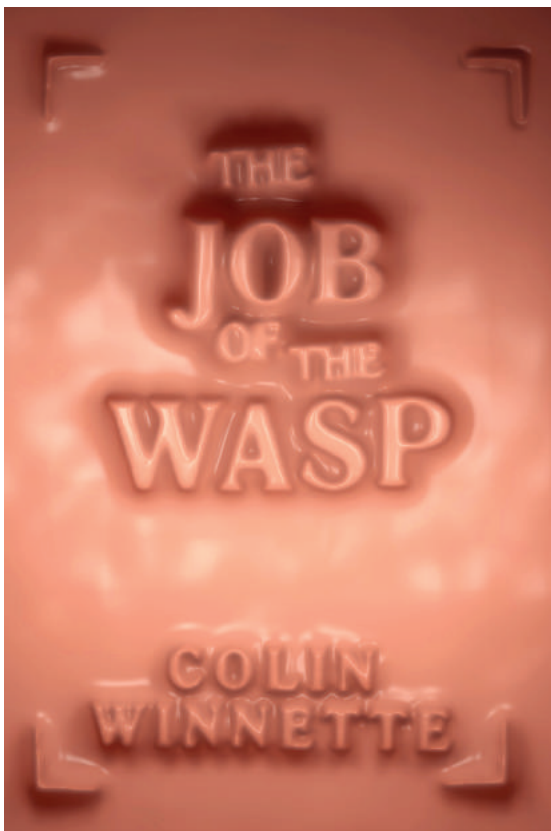


NEW TITLES
AND
SELECTED
BACKLIST

Winter - Spring 2018



SOFT SKULL
PRESS



THE JOB OF THE WASP

A Novel

COLIN WINNETTE

"A witty and grisly gothic unlike anything I've ever read. You should absolutely read this."

—Kelly Link, author of *Get in Trouble*

A new arrival at an isolated school for orphaned boys quickly comes to realize there is something wrong with his new home. He hears chilling whispers in the night, his troubled classmates are violent and hostile, and the Headmaster sends cryptic messages, begging his new charge to *confess*. As the new boy learns to survive on the edges of this impolite society, he starts to unravel a mystery at the school's dark heart. And that's when the corpses start turning up.

A coming-of-age tale, a Gothic ghost story, and a murder mystery all in one, *The Job of the Wasp* is a blood-curdling and brilliantly subversive novel about paranoia, love, and the nightmare of adolescence.

JANUARY

\$16.95

Trade Paper Original

Ebook Available

Rights available:

US/CAN

FICTION

9781593766801

208 pages

5.5" x 8.25"

"*The Job of the Wasp* is wonderfully creepy and peculiar, a sort of Gothic rendition of *Lord of the Flies*. Colin Winnette is an enviable, natural talent, and to read him is a pure entertainment."

—Patrick deWitt, author of *Undermajordomo Minor* and *The Sisters Brothers*

"*The Job of the Wasp* is an unsettling whodunit like you have never read before. Terrifying and stylish, disconcerting and beautiful, it calls to mind Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* and the mysteries of Agatha Christie, though Winnette is his own echoing and eerie original voice."

—Rachel Khong, author of *Goodbye, Vitamin*

"*The Job of the Wasp* is a madcap mystery, a macabre coming-of-age story and an unearthly fantasy—but it feels like childhood, like the world, like life."

—Daniel Handler, author of *We Are Pirates* and *All the Dirty Parts*

THIS BOOK INCLUDES:

- Possibly murderous Headmaster
- Possibly murderous schoolchildren
- Possibly murderous narrator
- Intrigue involving pornographic drawings
- Extended hive-mind metaphor
- Death by garden hoe
- Occasional bathroom humor
- Earnest moments of awkward tenderness
- Malevolent twins
- A profusion of corpses hidden in unlikely places

"Winnette's creepy ghost story tensely builds to its chilling end. I recommend reading *The Job of the Wasp* late at night during a storm with Pink Floyd's *The Wall* playing in the background."

—Caitlin Luce Baker, University Bookstore (Seattle, WA)

"This incredibly haunting book might leave you wondering about the possibility of the paranormal within your own life."

—John Gibbs, Green Apple Books on the Park (San Francisco, CA)



© Jennifer Yin

COLIN WINNETTE is the author of *Revelation*, *Animal Collection*, *Fondly*, *Coyote*, and *Haints Stay*. His books have been translated into French and Italian, and his writing has appeared in *Playboy*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Believer*, *Lucky Peach*, and numerous other journals and anthologies. He lives in San Francisco.

🐦 @aColinWinnette

www.colinwinnette.net

A
GIRL'S GUIDE
TO
PERSONAL
HYGIENE

True Stories, Illustrated



TALLULAH POMEROY

A GIRL'S GUIDE TO PERSONAL HYGIENE

True Stories, Illustrated

TALLULAH POMEROY

We sniff our knickers; we bite our own toenails; we laboriously dig out ingrown hairs: Women aren't as ladylike as people would like to imagine. A gleefully disgusting illustrated book that rewrites our definition of femininity.

One day the artist Tallulah Pomeroy overheard a conversation between two girls about another friend of theirs they knew in college. Apparently, when this friend had been on tour with the rugby team, she'd drunkenly "done a shit in the sink." "She's not a girl if she did that," said one to the other. "She may have a vagina, but she's not a girl."

This exchange made Tallulah laugh, but it also made her think. How many things had her friends done that meant they "weren't girls"? She made a Facebook group and asked people to submit stories

about their "unladylike" behaviors. The page was soon flooded with more stories than she could have ever imagined: about ear wax and trapped wind, gray pubes and bloody pajamas. It became a community of honest, funny, and supportive women, who, by admitting to things they'd thought were shameful, no longer had to feel ashamed.

For *A Girl's Guide to Personal Hygiene*, Tallulah made original illustrations to accompany a selection of those Facebook posts—plus dozens more from an expanded call for submissions—to create an exuberant and galvanizing handbook for all the nasty women of the world.

FEBRUARY

\$18.95

Trade Paper Original

Ebook Available

Rights available:

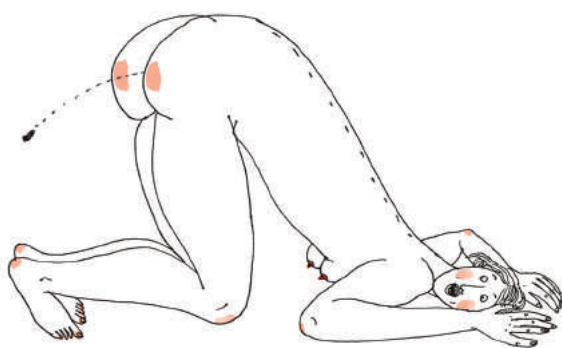
WORLD

HUMOR/ART

9781593761820

112 pages

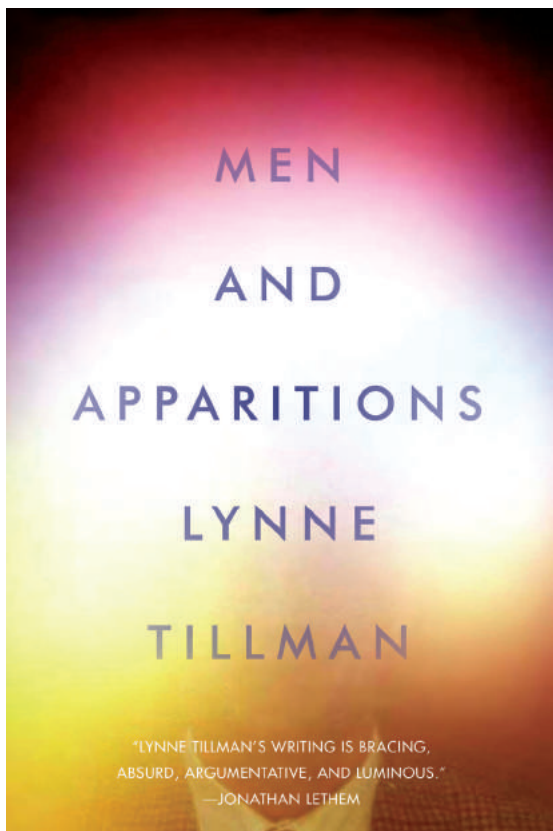
5.5" x 8.25"



© Oriete Steine

TALLULAH POMEROY is an English writer, illustrator, and artist. *Hallelujah, I'm a Bum*, a book of Callie Garnett's poems and Tallulah's illustrations, was published by Ugly Duckling Presse in 2015. Her poetry has been published in *Poems by Sunday* and *Coldfront* magazine. She has apprenticed at Ugly Duckling Presse and at Enchanted Lion Books, and is the in-house illustrator of *Catapult* magazine.

www.tallulahpomeroy.com



MEN AND APPARITIONS

A Novel

LYNNE TILLMAN

"Lynne Tillman's writing is bracing, absurd, argumentative, and luminous."

—Jonathan Lethem

We are the Picture People. I name us Picture People because most special and obvious about the species is, our kind lives on and for pictures, lives as and for images, our species takes pictures, makes pix, thinks in pix.

Why do human beings feel the need to create, remake, and keep images from and of everything? How are we supposed to live amid this glut of images? *Men and Apparitions* takes on a central question of our time through the wild musings and eventful life of Ezekiel Hooper Stark, cultural anthropologist, ethnographer, specialist in family photographs. As Zeke goes from being a child obsessed with his family's photo albums to a young and passionate researcher to a man broken by betrayal in love, his academic fascinations reflect his course, touching on such various subjects as discarded images, pet pictures, spirit mediums, the tragic life of his long-dead cousin, the semi-famous socialite Clover Adams, and the nature of contemporary masculinity.

Kaleidoscopic and encyclopedic, madcap and wry, *Men and Apparitions* showcases Lynne Tillman not only as a brilliantly original novelist but as one of our most prominent thinkers on visual art and culture today.

MARCH

\$16.95

Trade Paper Original

Ebook Available

Rights available:

US/CAN

FICTION

9781593766795

416 pages

5.5" x 8.25"

ALSO AVAILABLE

AMERICAN GENIUS, A COMEDY 9781933368443 • \$15.00

Praise for Lynne Tillman

"When I want to feel that my brain is alive and active, and when I want to laugh at the same time, laugh at something really intelligent and interesting, I read Lynne Tillman's stories."

—Lydia Davis

"Lynne Tillman was one of the first writers I ever knew in the real world who taught me something about the real world, which included, of course, the universe of her prodigious imagination."

—Hilton Als

"Flawed, beautiful, sacred, insane."

—George Saunders, on *American Genius, A Comedy*

SUBJECTS INCLUDE:

Clover Hooper Adams, Natalie Barney, Yogi Berra, Pierre Bonnard, Mathew Brady, John Cage, Cain, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Song Dong, Roger Federer, Michel Foucault, Margaret Fuller, Clifford Geertz, Emma Goldman, Robert Kardashian, Genghis Khan, Rodney King, Barbara Kruger, Lazarus, Louis Menand, Mesmer, JonBenét Ramsey, Lorna Simpson, Tony Soprano, The Unabomber, The Velvet Underground, Vermeer, Barbara Walters, Andy Warhol, Serena Williams, Virginia Woolf . . .



© James Welling

LYNNE TILLMAN is a novelist, short story writer, and cultural critic. Her novels are *Haunted Houses*; *Motion Sickness*; *Cast in Doubt*; *No Lease on Life*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *American Genius, A Comedy*. Her most recent nonfiction book is *What Would Lynne Tillman Do?*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism, and her most recent short story collection is *The Complete Madame Realism*. Tillman is Professor/Writer-in-Residence in the Department of English at the University of Albany and teaches at the School of Visual Arts' Art Criticism and Writing M.F.A. Program in New York.



THE GARBAGE TIMES / WHITE IBIS

Two Novellas

SAM PINK

MAY
\$16.95
Trade Paper Original
Ebook Available
Rights available:
WORLD

FICTION
9781593766818
160 pages
5.5" x 8.25"
Tête-bêche
single volume

“One of the most exciting, most inspiring novelists currently writing.”

—*Thought Catalog*

From the freezing alleys of Chicago to the dew-blanketed bayou of Florida. From bouncing drunks and cleaning up puke to biking through the swamp laughing at peacocks. Freeze to thaw. Filth and broken glass and black water backed up in showers; lizards and Girl Scouts and themed birthday parties. A baby rat freed from the bottom of a Dumpster becomes a white ibis wandering the wet driveway after a storm. Goodbye, hello, goodbye. It was the garbage times; it was time for something else. A tale of two tales, connected by a mysterious sunlit portal. Designed with tête-bêche binding as a single volume.

Praise for Sam Pink

“Sam’s writing reminds me of Kurt Cobain’s or Eminem’s, with a mixture of anger and dead babies and umbilical cords. It alternates swiftly from humor and playfulness to isolation and sadness. You might read a piece through the first time laughing your ass off, but if you stay on the page long enough, let the words really sink in, you soon realize, hey, this isn’t funny at all, actually, this is really fucked up and sick and heartbreaking as hell.”

—**Elizabeth Ellen, editor of Short Flight/Long Drive Books**

“Pink is a keen observer of the culture of minimum-wage jobs and low-rent studio apartments that is the reality of life for all those who don’t find a cog space in today’s hyper-capitalist economy.”

—*The Guardian*

“No matter what he’s writing, Pink’s eye for describing the bizarre daily parade of being a person surrounded by other people and with a brain that won’t turn off is by turns hilarious, self-destructive, surreal, precise, and moving without trying to be moving.”

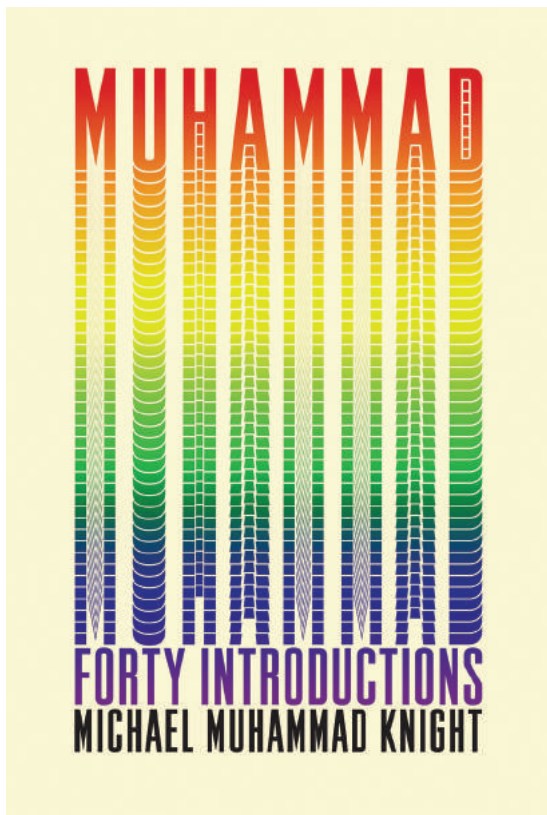
—*VICE*



© Devyn Waitt

SAM PINK is the author of *The Self-Esteem Holocaust Comes Home*, *Person*, *The No Hellos Diet*, *Hurt Others*, *Frowns Need Friends Too*, *Rontel*, and *Witch Piss*. His writing has been published widely in print and on the internet, and in other languages. He lives near Tampa, Florida, and sells paintings at www.instagram.com/sam_pink_art.

🐦 @sampinkisalive



MUHAMMAD

Forty Introductions

MICHAEL MUHAMMAD KNIGHT

“He’s a writer only America could have produced, one whom contemporary American readers should be primed to appreciate.”

—*SF Gate*

He ranks among the most venerated historical figures in the world as well as the most contested. *Muhammad: Forty Introductions* offers a distinct and nuanced take on the life and teachings of Muhammad the prophet, using a traditional genre of Islamic literature called the “forty hadiths” collection.

Hadiths, the reported sayings and actions of Muhammad, number in the tens of thousands and fill massive encyclopedic collections. Muslim scholars have traditionally drawn from this vast textual ocean to compile their own smaller collections of forty *hadiths*, an act of curation that allows them to present their particular understanding of Muhammad’s legacy and the essential points of Islam.

Here, Michael Muhammad Knight contributes his own forty-*hadith* collection, offering forty narrations that provide windows into the diverse ways in which Muslims envision Muhammad. He examines his own relationship to Muslim traditions while exploring such topics as law, mysticism, sectarianism, gender, and sexuality. By revealing the prophetic biography to be an ongoing construction, he carefully unravels notions about Islam’s center and margins.

JULY

\$16.95

Trade Paper Original

Ebook Available

Rights available:

US/CAN

RELIGION

9781593761479

192 pages

5.5” x 8.25”

ALSO AVAILABLE

THE TAQWACORES 9781593762292 • \$13.95

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WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS VS. THE QUR’AN

9781593764159 • \$15.95

TRIPPING WITH ALLAH 9781593764432 • \$15.95

WHY I AM A SALAFI 9781593766061 • \$15.95

Praise for Michael Muhammad Knight

“The Hunter S. Thompson of Islamic literature.”

—*The Guardian*

“Islam’s gonzo experimentalist.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Praise for *Why I Am a Salafi*

“Knight . . . invites readers into ‘the desert of the real Islam,’ offering a deconstructionist take on Islamic texts, tradition, transmission, and theology . . . Knight’s ambitious scope and captivating voice make *Why I Am a Salafi* a must-read for those interested in an alternative side of Islam.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



MICHAEL MUHAMMAD KNIGHT is a novelist, essayist, and scholar. He converted to Islam at sixteen and traveled to Islamabad at seventeen to study at a *madrasa*. His books include *The Taqwacores*, *Blue-Eyed Devil*, *Impossible Man*, *William S. Burroughs vs. the Qu’ran*, *Tripping with Allah: Islam, Drugs, and Writing*, and *Why I Am a Salafi*. He is an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

 @MM_Knight



ALL ABOUT LULU

Tenth-Anniversary Edition

JONATHAN EVISON
Foreword by J. Ryan Stradal

MARCH • Fiction • Paperback Reissue • 9781593762087
\$16.95 • 352 pages • Ebook available

"I first read *All About Lulu* almost a decade ago, and you know what? It's still as audaciously brilliant as it was on first read, plumbing the depths of the cruel rhapsody of obsessive love, the pain of feeling different, and the deep pleasure of finally figuring out who you really are, and who you want to be. Devastatingly assured, wickedly funny, and sublimely moving, *All About Lulu* proves that Evison, so rightfully acclaimed, had that spark of genius right from the start."

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cruel Beautiful World*



© Tom Atwood

Author of the NBCC Award-winning *The Argonauts*

SOMETHING BRIGHT, THEN HOLES

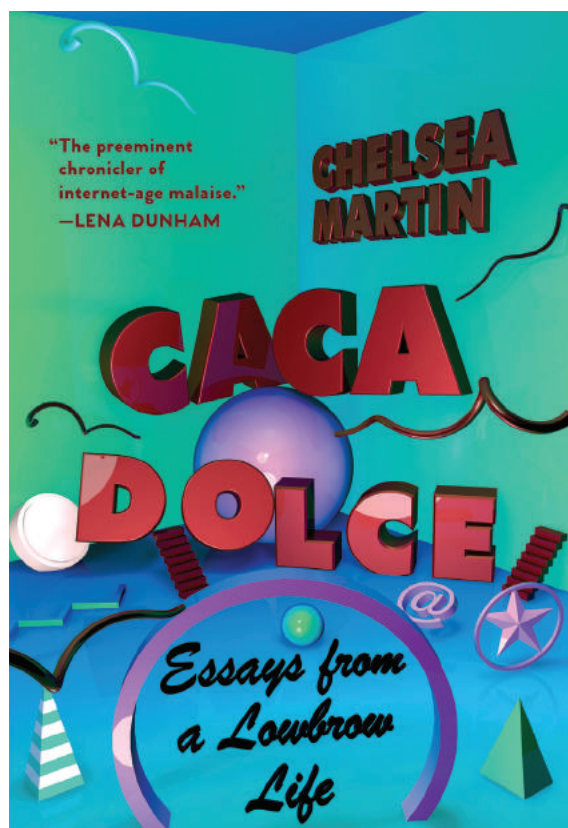
Poems

MAGGIE NELSON

APRIL • Poetry • Paperback Reissue • 9781593762308
\$16.00 • 80 pages • Ebook available • 5.5" x 8.25"

MAGGIE NELSON is the author of nine books of poetry and prose, including *Jane: A Murder*, *The Red Parts: A Memoir*, *Bluets*, *The Art of Cruelty: A Reckoning*, and *The Argonauts*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award. She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in Nonfiction, an NEA in Poetry, an Innovative Literature Fellowship from Creative Capital, and an Arts Writers Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation. In 2016, she was awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. She lives in Los Angeles.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED



CACA DOLCE

Essays from a Lowbrow Life

CHELSEA MARTIN

ESSAYS • Trade Paper Original • 9781593766771
\$16.95 • 224 pages • Ebook available

“Martin’s honest writing exists above the confines of fear and social norms . . . A breath of pure oxygen in a literary environment that often shies away from female grit . . . A sure hit for fans of Sara Benincasa’s *Agorafabulous!* and Lena Dunham’s *Not That Kind of Girl*.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)

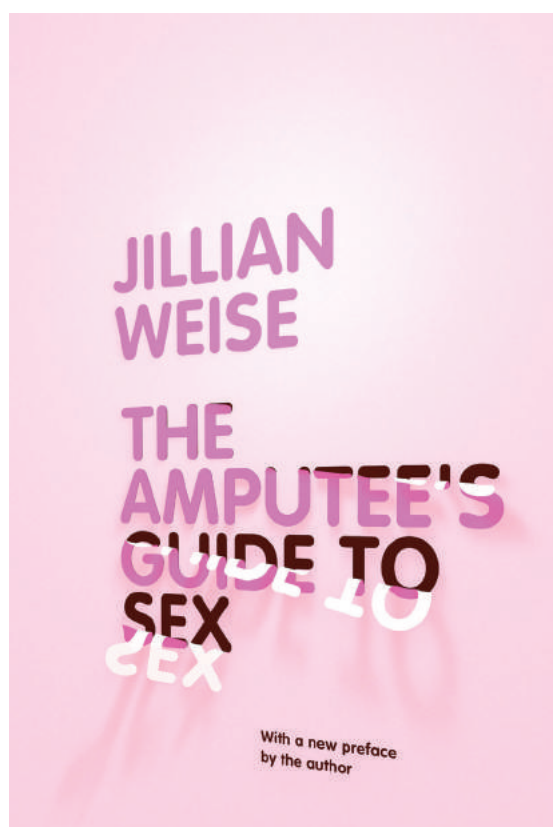
“A wild ride of a memoir, and a true glimpse into the mind of an artist as she’s figuring out what life is all about.”

—*NYLON*

“Martin’s tragicomic essays on everything . . . evoke a misfit’s paradise.”
—*O, The Oprah Magazine*, “10 Titles to Pick Up Now”

“This collection of personal reminiscences—at turns shocking and yet surprisingly relatable—reveal as many seminal, universal truths about the complexities of coming of age in the digital era as they do the deep contemplations of a truly unique and gifted writer and young woman.”

—*Harper’s Bazaar*



THE AMPUTEE'S GUIDE TO SEX

Poems

JILLIAN WEISE

POETRY • Paperback Reissue • 9781593760205
\$16.00 • 112 pages • Ebook available

“An elegant examination of intimacy and disability and a fearless dissection of the taboo and the hidden.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

“Weise artfully interweaves biographical details with meditations on the history of disability and sex, laying bare the complexities of finding sexual and emotional intimacy as an amputee with a prosthetic leg . . . An agile and powerful poet, Weise references medical literature, history and poetry, speaking boldly and compassionately about a little-discussed subject that becomes universal in her careful hands.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



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