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The Kiss The Kiss On Sunset Enchantments Seeking Rapture Joan of Arc
The Binding Chair; or, A Visit from the Foot Emancipation Society The
Road to Santiago Thicker Than Water At Home in the World Tiger, Tiger
The Seal Wife Envy Before, During, After Exposure The Incest Diary The
Mother Knot The Chronology of Water Becoming a Man Lying The Mothers
Saint Therese of Lisieux Extremities The Story of Junk Break and Enter
The Art of Memoir Saint Thérèse of Lisieux Living to Tell about it
Poison (The Cartel Publications Presents) Kiss the Bride The Painted
Kiss My Dark Vanessa The Way Home The Hero's Body: A Memoir Life with
Father Incest and the Literary Imagination Slow Motion Promiscuities
The Secret Currency of Love A Thousand Orange Trees

"Luminous and affecting . . . [Exposure] examines the often fine line
between art and abuse. . . . Taut in plot, beautifully realistic, and
intelligently disturbing." -Harper's Bazaar Ann Rogers appears to be a
happily married, successful young woman. A talented photographer, she
creates happy memories for others, videotaping weddings, splicing
together scenes of smiling faces, editing out awkward moments. But she
cannot edit her own memories so easily-images of a childhood spent as
her father's model and muse, the subject of his celebrated series of
controversial photographs. To cope, Ann slips into a secret life of
shame and vice. But when the Museum of Modern Art announces a
retrospective of her father's shocking portraits, Ann finds herself
teetering on the edge of self-destruction, desperately trying to
escape the psychological maelstrom that threatens to consume her.
"Astounding . . . told in prose as multifaceted as a diamond,
crystalline and mesmerizing. 'Remarkable' hardly goes far enough."
-Cosmopolitan "Impossible to put down . . . Kathryn Harrison is an
extremely gifted writer, poetic, passionate, and elegant." -San
Francisco Chronicle "Exquisite, exhilarating, and harrowing." -Donna
Tartt, author of The Secret History and The Little Friend "A
breathless urban nightmare not easy to forget. Stark, brilliant, and
original work." -Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "The beauty of Lauren
Slater's prose is shocking," said Newsday about Welcome to My Country,
and now, in this powerful and provocative new book, Slater brilliantly
explores a mind, a body, and a life under siege. Diagnosed as a child
with a strange illness, brought up in a family given to fantasy and
ambition, Lauren Slater developed seizures, auras, neurological
disturbances--and an ability to lie. In Lying: A Metaphorical Memoir,
Slater blends a coming-of-age story with an electrifying exploration
of the nature of truth, and of whether it is ever possible to tell--or

to know--the facts about a self, a human being, a life. Lying chronicles the doctors, the tests, the seizures, the family embarrassments, even as it explores a sensitive child's illness as both metaphor and a means of attention-getting--a human being's susceptibility to malady, and to storytelling as an act of healing and as part of the quest for love. This mesmerizing memoir openly questions the reliability of memoir itself, the trickiness of the mind in perceiving reality, the slippery nature of illness and diagnosis--the shifting perceptions and images of who we are and what, for God's sake, is the matter with us. In Lying, Lauren Slater forces us to redraw the boundary between what we know as fact and what we believe we create as fiction. Here a young woman discovers not only what plagues her but also what heals her--the birth of sensuality, her creativity as an artist--in a book that reaffirms how a fine writer can reveal what is common to us all in the course of telling her own unique story. About *Welcome to My Country*, the San Francisco Chronicle said, "Every page brims with beautifully rendered images of thoughts, feelings, emotional states." The same can be said about Lying: *A Metaphorical Memoir*. As Marie Louise de Bourbon, niece of Louis XIV, journeys from Versailles to marry the Spanish king, she is forced to abandon the orange trees brought from her beloved Versailles, leaving them to wither in the Pyrenees. This loss presages the future that awaits her, in a court riven by intrigue, with an impotent husband who demands an heir. Peter Scattergood is a Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney, a relentless and clever prosecutor who has just landed the biggest case of his career--a double homicide, involving the mayor's nephew and his mistress. This is not the best time for his wife to walk out on their crumbling marriage and to disappear. As Peter tries to find his wife, and to build his case, he is drawn into an affair with an alluring stranger named Cassandra, a woman whose greatest skill is arousing suspicion. *Break and Enter* is an intense, intricate thriller about the thresholds we must cross in order to get at the truth. Isabel is the troubled daughter of charismatic but reckless parents who hastily wed, divorced just as fast, and distanced themselves from each other--and their child. Left to her grandparents' care, Isabel longs for her remote, glamorous mother and for a father who is a fading memory. Unable to control her agony, Isabel rebels in perverse and dangerous ways. A captivating novel that gives new meaning to Freud's "family romance," *Thicker Than Water* vividly illuminates the fragile line between love and the darker sides of passion. Exquisitely and hypnotically written, like a bold and terrifying dream, *The Kiss* is breathtaking in its honesty and in the power and beauty of its creation. In this extraordinary memoir, one of the best young writers in America today transforms into a work of art the darkest passage imaginable in a young woman's life: an obsessive love affair between father and daughter that began when Kathryn

Harrison, twenty years old, was reunited with a parent whose absence had haunted her youth. A story both of taboo and of family complicity in breaking taboo, *The Kiss* is also about love—about the most primal of love triangles, the one that ensnares a child between mother and father. Praise for *The Kiss* “I couldn’t stop reading this. I’ll never stop remembering it.”—Mary Karr, author of *The Liars’ Club* “Only a writer of extraordinary gifts could bring so much light to bear on so dark a matter, redeeming it with the steadiness of her gaze and the uncanny, heartbreaking exactitude of her language.”—Tobias Wolff, author of *This Boy’s Life* “Beautifully written . . . jumping back and forth in time yet drawing you irresistibly toward the heart of a great evil.”—*The New York Times* “Like all good literature, *The Kiss* illuminates something that we knew already, while also teaching us things we had not even suspected.”—*Los Angeles Times* “A darkly beautiful book, fearless and frightening, ironic and compassionate.”—Mary Gordon, author of *Circling My Mother* “Harrison’s story is her own, but it is also a brilliant fiction, densely mythic, sometimes almost liturgical sounding and raw. She is both author and protagonist of a dark pilgrim’s progress.”—*The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*

Born in Los Angeles at the dawn of the 1960s to parents who quickly departed, Kathryn Harrison was received by her maternal grandparents as a late-life child. Harry Jacobs and Margaret Sassoon, true wandering Jews, had emigrated to L.A. after leading whirlwind lives in Shanghai, London, Alaska, Russia, and beyond. Harrison grew up in their fading Tudor mansion on Sunset Boulevard, a kingdom inhabited by gleaming memories from their extraordinary past. Their photos, letters, and souvenirs sparked endless family stories that spanned cultures, dynasties, and continents—until declining finances forced them to sell the house in 1971, and night fell fast. Vivid and poignant, filled with the wisdom of retrospect and the wonder of childhood, *On Sunset* seeks to recover a foundational time in her life, affirming the power of storytelling and the endurance of memory. This is not your mother’s memoir. In *The Chronology of Water*, Lidia Yuknavitch, a lifelong swimmer and Olympic hopeful escapes her raging father and alcoholic and suicidal mother when she accepts a swimming scholarship which drug and alcohol addiction eventually cause her to lose. What follows is promiscuous sex with both men and women, some of them famous, and some of it S&M, and Lidia discovers the power of her sexuality to help her forget her pain. The forgetting doesn’t last, though, and it is her hard-earned career as a writer and a teacher, and the love of her husband and son, that ultimately create the life she needs to survive. “Its range—both chronological and methodological—as well as the consistently high quality of its essays makes this collection stand out. A timely and important collection . . . on literary representations of incest [that will] become the touchstone for further work in the field.”—Teresa A. Goddu,

Vanderbilt University "These original and provocative essays fill a significant gap in our literary histories of sex and gender."--Bruce Burgett, University of Washington, Bothell This wide-ranging collection tracks the contradictory roles of incest in Anglo-American literature, politics, and culture from the Middle Ages, a period Elizabeth Barnes states is considered unrivaled for its "unblinking acceptance of many varieties of incest," to the present. Barnes explicates the role of incest in Anglo-American literature and culture, and in doing so sheds new light on the familiar story of incest as a vice of barbarians and a privilege of the elite. This unprecedented critical treatment of the subject speaks comprehensively to the greater attention placed on the occurrence of incest in the last several decades even as it provides a critical grasp of the topic from complex theoretical and historically nuanced perspectives. The essays range across a variety of methodological approaches--including psychoanalytic, cultural-historical, biographical, and queer theoretical. In this seminal work in the field, Elizabeth Barnes clarifies the role of literature as a privileged site for the inquiry into incest. She links literature's ability to "tell trauma"--a theoretical issue of the book--to the personal, political, and cultural approaches to incest that the volume addresses. The result is a collection, unlike many of such broad scope, whose essays flow seamlessly and coherently from one focus to the next. Contents Part I. The Royal Privilege of Incest 1. "Worse Than Bogery": Incest Stories in Middle English Literature, by Elizabeth Archibald 2. Incest and Authority in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, by Susan Frye 3. Sexual and Social Mobility in *The Duchess of Malfi*, by Frank Whigham 4. Incest and Class: 'Tis Pity She's a Whore and the Borgias, by Lisa Hopkins Part II. The Fall of the Fathers 5. The Ambivalence of Nature's Law: Representations of Incest in Dryden and His English Contemporaries, by T.G.A. Nelson 6. Natural and National Unions: Incest and Sympathy in the Early Republic, by Elizabeth Barnes 7. Temperance in the Bed of a Child: Incest and Social Order in Nineteenth-Century America, by Karen Sanchez-Eppler Part III. The Silence of the Daughters 8. Incest in the Story of *Tancredi*: Christine de Pizan's Poetics of Euphemism, by Elizabeth Allen 9. "Don't Say Such Foolish Things, Dear": Speaking Incest in *The Voyage Out*, by Jen Shelton 10. "Father, Don't You See I'm Burning?": Identification and Remembering in H.D.'s World War II Writing, by Madelyn Detloff Part IV. Incest in the House of Culture 11. Telling Fact from Fiction: Dorothy Allison's Disciplinary Stories, by Gillian Harkins 12. "Hereisthehouse": Cultural Spaces of Incest in *The Bluest Eye*, by Minrose C. Gwin 13. Sexual Trauma/Queer Memory: Incest, Lesbianism, and Therapeutic Culture, by Ann Cvetkovich 14. The New Face of Incest?: Race, Class, and the Controversy over Kathryn Harrison's *The Kiss*, by Mako Yoshikawa Elizabeth L. Barnes is associate professor of English at the College of William and Mary.

Growing up in Bavaria during World War II, Ernestine Bradley came to know wartime dislocations and food shortages, along with the challenges of taking care of her siblings while her mother was ill. The men of her hometown were away at war, but their absence created an exciting unexpected freedom—a freedom she sought again at 21 when she became a stewardess, moved to New York and went on to marry a shy basketball star who played for the New York Knicks. Yet the paradoxes of her childhood shaped Bradley's life. Her hard-won discipline helped her maintain a full-time career as a professor while she commuted weekly to Washington and her husband's public life; and Germany's literary response to the holocaust of which she had been unaware became her scholarly passion. Cancer confronted her with a personal war, ultimately demanding a vulnerability she had never allowed herself. Frank, warm, and deeply moving, *The Way Home* is an inspiring American story. Based in Delaware, *Young, Beautiful and Naïve* can all be used to describe Nyse who is tired of being overlooked due to living in her sister, the self proclaimed, Queen Kat's shadow. And like a moth to a flame burnt by desire, she's immediately drawn to Spinx, a neighborhood drug dealer, and the one man her sister warns her against. At twelve, she eventually get's noticed by Spinx, despite every chick in Serenity Hills wanting him. Luckily for, Nyse he has a thing for young girls even though he makes her wait. On her sixteenth birthday he showers her with gifts and opens her to a whole new world down The Hill. Taking her heart and body, Spinx eventually shows her the man he really is. Not ready for a dose of the real world, his unfaithfulness causes her to turn bitter and conniving. Eventually this Venomous Vixen tares anything and everyone apart who poses a threat. And before anyone realizes it, she causes more drama in the lives of her friends and family than can be repaired. That girl is, Poison! Gustav Klimt, one of the great painters of fin de siècle Austria—and the subject of Helen Mirren's latest film, *Woman in Gold*—takes center stage in this passionate and atmospheric debut novel, which reimagines the tumultuous relationship between the Viennese painter and Emilie Flöge, the woman who posed for his masterpiece *The Kiss*, and whose name he uttered with his dying breath. Vienna in 1886 was a city of elegant cafés, grand opera houses, and a thriving and adventurous artistic community. It is here where the twelve-year-old Emilie meets the controversial libertine and painter. Hired by her bourgeois father for basic drawing lessons, Klimt introduces Emilie to a subculture of dissolute artists, wanton models, and decadent patrons that both terrifies and inspires her. *The Painted Kiss* follows Emilie as she blossoms from a naïve young girl to one of Europe's most exclusive couturiers—and Klimt's most beloved model and mistress. A provocative love story that brings to life Vienna's cultural milieu, *The Painted Kiss* is as compelling as a work by Klimt himself. In *Promiscuities*, Naomi Wolf has written an exceptionally

frank sexual memoir of an individual and a generation, and a call to women not only to reclaim but to celebrate their own sexual experiences, desires and histories. A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK In this exquisite book of personal reflections on a woman's life as a child, wife, and mother, Kathryn Harrison, "a writer of extraordinary gifts" (Tobias Wolff), recalls episodes in her life, exploring how the experiences of childhood recur in memory, to be transformed and sometimes healed through the lives we lead as adults. At the heart of Seeking Rapture is the notion that a woman's journey is a continuous process of transformation, an ongoing transcendence and re-creation of self. Although they are separated in age by almost two decades, when Natasha, a young artist, meets Michael Faulk, a priest struggling with his faith, the stars seem to align. But shortly before their wedding day, as the terrorist attacks of 9/11 shake the country, cracks in their relationship begin to emerge. Cut off from one another for several terrifying hours, Natasha suffers an unimaginable private trauma, and her inability to speak of it inexorably divides their relationship into "before" and "after." Gorgeously rendered and emotionally powerful, in Before, During, After one of our most distinguished storytellers charts the path of a relationship threatened by secrets. A memoir of motorcycles and muscles, of obsession and grief, and of a young man who learned how to stay alive through literature. At just forty-seven years old, William Giraldi's father was killed in a horrific motorcycle crash while racing on a country road. This tragedy, which forever altered the young Giraldi and devastated his family, provides the pulse for The Hero's Body. In the tradition of Andre Dubus III's Townie, this is a deep-seeing investigation into two generations of men from the working-class town of Manville, New Jersey, including Giraldi's own forays into obsessive bodybuilding as a teenager desperate to be worthy of his family's pitiless, exacting codes of manhood. Lauded by The New Yorker for his "unrelenting, perfectly paced prose," Giraldi writes here with daring, searing honesty about the fragility and might of the American male. An unflinching memoir of luminous sorrow, a son's tale of a lost father and the ancient family strictures of extreme masculinity, The Hero's Body is a work of lasting beauty by one of our most fearless writers. A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Book for 2011 A Globe and Mail Best Books of the Year 2011 Title Tiger, Tiger is a Publishers Weekly Best Nonfiction title for 2011 A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction of 2011 title One summer day, Margaux Frago meets Peter Curran at the neighborhood swimming pool, and they begin to play. She is seven; he is fifty-one. When Peter invites her and her mother to his house, the little girl finds a child's paradise of exotic pets and an elaborate backyard garden. Her mother, beset by mental illness and overwhelmed by caring for Margaux, is grateful for the attention Peter lavishes on her, and he creates an imaginative universe for her, much as Lewis

Carroll did for his real-life Alice. In time, he insidiously takes on the role of Margaux's playmate, father, and lover. Charming and manipulative, Peter burrows into every aspect of Margaux's life and transforms her from a child fizzing with imagination and affection into a brainwashed young woman on the verge of suicide. But when she is twenty-two, it is Peter—ill, and wracked with guilt—who kills himself, at the age of sixty-six. Told with lyricism, depth, and mesmerizing clarity, *Tiger, Tiger* vividly illustrates the healing power of memory and disclosure. This extraordinary memoir is an unprecedented glimpse into the psyche of a young girl in free fall and conveys to readers—including parents and survivors of abuse—just how completely a pedophile enchants his victim and binds her to him. How do we come to terms with what can't be forgotten? How do we bear witness to extreme experiences that challenge the limits of language? This remarkable volume explores the emotional, political, and aesthetic dimensions of testimonies to trauma as they translate private anguish into public space. Nancy K. Miller and Jason Tougaw have assembled a collection of essays that trace the legacy of the Holocaust and subsequent events that have shaped twentieth-century history and still haunt contemporary culture. *Extremities* combines personal and scholarly approaches to a wide range of texts that bear witness to shocking and moving accounts of individual trauma: Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Sylvia Plath's "Daddy" and "Lady Lazarus," Kathryn Harrison's *The Kiss*, Tatana Kellner's Holocaust art, Ruth Klüger's powerful memoir *Still Alive*, and Benjamin Wilkomirski's controversial narrative of concentration camp suffering *Fragments*. The book grapples with the cultural and social effects of historical crises, including the Montreal Massacre, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and the medical catastrophes of HIV/AIDS and breast cancer. Developing insights from autobiography, psychoanalysis, feminist theory and gender studies, the authors demonstrate that testimonies of troubling and taboo subjects do more than just add to the culture of confession—they transform identities and help reimagine the boundaries of community. *Extremities* offers an original and timely interpretive guide to the growing field of trauma studies. The volume includes essays by Ross Chambers, Sandra M. Gilbert, Susan Gubar, Marianne Hirsch, Wayne Koestenbaum, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, and others. In poised and elegant prose, Kathryn Harrison weaves in *The Binding Chair*; or, *A Visit from the Foot Emancipation Society* a stunning story of women, travel, and flight; of love, revenge, and fear; of the search for home and the need to escape it. Set in alluring Shanghai at the turn of the century, *The Binding Chair* intertwines the destinies of a Chinese woman determined to forget her past and a Western girl focused on the promises of the future. Beautiful, charismatic, destructive, May escapes an arranged marriage in rural nineteenth-century China for life in a Shanghai brothel, where she meets Arthur, an Australian whose philanthropic

pursuits lead him into one scrape after another. As a member of the Foot Emancipation Society, Arthur calls on May not for his pleasure but for her rehabilitation, only to find himself immediately and helplessly seduced by the sight of her bound feet. Reforming May is out of the question, so love-struck Arthur marries her instead and brings her home to live with him, his sister and brother-in-law, and their two girls, Alice and Cecily. In Alice, May sees the possibility of redemption: a surrogate for a child she has lost. And it is to May that Alice turns for the love her own mother withholds. But when the twelve-year-old is caught preparing her aunt's opium pipe, she is shipped off to a London boarding school, far from the dangerous influence of the woman who will come to reclaim her and to control the whole family. The Binding Chair unfolds among scenes of astonishing beauty and cruelty, in a lawless place where traditions and cultures clash, and where tragedy threatens a world built on the banks of unsettled waters--from the bustling Whangpoo River to the lake of blood in the Chinese afterworld. By turns shocking, exquisite, and hilarious, The Binding Chair is another spellbinding literary triumph by the writer whose work Michiko Kakutani of The New York Times has called "powerful and hypnotic." Phelan's compelling readings cover important theoretical ground by introducing a valuable distinction between disclosure functions and narrator functions. From one of the most gifted writers of her generation comes the harrowing and exquisitely written true story of how a family tragedy saved her life. Dani Shapiro was a young girl from a deeply religious home who became the girlfriend of a famous and flamboyant married attorney--her best friend's stepfather. The moment Lenny Klein entered her life, everything changed: she dropped out of college, began to drink heavily, and became estranged from her family and friends. But then the phone call came. There had been an accident on a snowy road near her family's home in New Jersey, and both her parents lay hospitalized in critical condition. This haunting memoir traces her journey back into the world she had left behind. At a time when she was barely able to take care of herself, she was faced with the terrifying task of taking care of two people who needed her desperately. Dani Shapiro charts a riveting emotional course as she retraces her isolated, overprotected Orthodox Jewish childhood in an anti-Semitic suburb, and draws the connections between that childhood and her inevitable rebellion and self-destructiveness. She tells of a life nearly ruined by the gift of beauty, and then saved by the worst thing imaginable. This is a beautiful and unforgettable memoir of a life utterly transformed by tragedy. Masha, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Rasputin, is sent to live in the imperial palace with Tsar Nicholas's family, where she tends the ailing Prince Alyosha, with whom she exchanges comforting family stories when the royal family is arrested. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, largely unknown when she died in a Carmelite

convent at the age of twenty-four, became—through her posthumously published autobiography—one of the world's most influential religious figures. In *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux*, bestselling novelist and memoirist Kathryn Harrison, whose depictions of women have been called "powerful" (The New York Times Book Review) and "luminously intelligent" (The Boston Sunday Globe), brings to the saint's life her storytelling gift and deep insight as she reveals the hopes and fears of the young girl behind the religious icon. *Saint Thérèse of Lisieux* shows us the pampered daughter of successful and deeply religious tradespeople who—through a personal appeal to the pope—entered a convent at the early age of fifteen. There, Thérèse embraced sacrifice and self-renunciation in a single-minded pursuit of the "nothingness" she felt would bring her closer to God. With feeling, Harrison shows us the sensitive four-year-old whose mother's death haunted her forever and contributed to the ascetic spirituality that strengthened her to embrace even the deadly throes of tuberculosis. Tellingly placed in the context of late-nineteenth-century French social and religious practices, this is a powerful story of a life lived with enormous passion and a searing, triumphant voyage of the spirit. In this dark gem of a book by the author of *The Kiss*, a complex mother-daughter relationship precipitates a journey through depression to greater understanding, acceptance, freedom, and love. Spare and unflinching, *The Mother Knot* is Kathryn Harrison's courageous exploration of her painful feelings about her mother, and of her depression and recovery. Writer, wife, mother of three, Kathryn Harrison finds herself, at age forty-one, wrestling with a black, untamable force that seems to have the power to undermine her sanity and her safety, a darkness that is tied to her relationship with her own mother, dead for many years but no less a haunting presence. Shaken by a family emergency that reveals the fragility of her current happiness, Harrison falls prey to despair and anxiety she believed she'd overcome long before. A relapse of anorexia becomes the tangible reminder of a youth spent trying to achieve the perfection she had hoped would win her mother's love, and forces her to confront, understand, and ultimately cast out—in startling physical form—the demons within herself. Powerful, insightful, unforgettable, by "a writer of extraordinary gifts" (Tobias Wolff), Kathryn Harrison's *The Mother Knot* is a knockout. INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "[An] exceedingly complex, inventive, resourceful examination of harm and power." —The New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice "A lightning rod . . . brilliantly crafted."—The Washington Post A most anticipated book by The New York Times • USA Today • Entertainment Weekly • Marie Claire • Elle • Harper's Bazaar • Bustle • Newsweek • New York Post • Esquire • Real Simple • The Sunday Times • The Guardian Exploring the psychological dynamics of the relationship between a precocious yet naïve teenage girl and her magnetic and manipulative teacher, a

brilliant, all-consuming read that marks the explosive debut of an extraordinary new writer. 2000. Bright, ambitious, and yearning for adulthood, fifteen-year-old Vanessa Wye becomes entangled in an affair with Jacob Strane, her magnetic and guileful forty-two-year-old English teacher. 2017. Amid the rising wave of allegations against powerful men, a reckoning is coming due. Strane has been accused of sexual abuse by a former student, who reaches out to Vanessa, and now Vanessa suddenly finds herself facing an impossible choice: remain silent, firm in the belief that her teenage self willingly engaged in this relationship, or redefine herself and the events of her past. But how can Vanessa reject her first love, the man who fundamentally transformed her and has been a persistent presence in her life? Is it possible that the man she loved as a teenager—and who professed to worship only her—may be far different from what she has always believed? Alternating between Vanessa's present and her past, *My Dark Vanessa* juxtaposes memory and trauma with the breathless excitement of a teenage girl discovering the power her own body can wield. Thought-provoking and impossible to put down, this is a masterful portrayal of troubled adolescence and its repercussions that raises vital questions about agency, consent, complicity, and victimhood. Written with the haunting intimacy of *The Girls* and the creeping intensity of *Room*, *My Dark Vanessa* is an era-defining novel that brilliantly captures and reflects the shifting cultural mores transforming our relationships and society itself. Witty, terrifying, and utterly cool, Yablonsky's roman à clef is a searing, hyperreal account of the heroin underground in 1980s Manhattan Told with dark humor and unremitting honesty, Linda Yablonsky's riveting first novel explores the New York art and postpunk music world of the early 1980s from deep within. Set in motion by the appearance of a federal agent, the tale follows two women on a dangerous and seductive journey through a bohemia where hard drugs, extreme behavior, intense friendships, and the emergence of AIDS profoundly alter their lives. Poignant, raw, and insightful, Jennifer Gilmore's third novel is an unforgettable story of love, family, and motherhood. With a "voice [that is] at turns wise and barbed with sharp humor" (*Vanity Fair*), Gilmore lays bare the story of one couple's ardent desire for a child and their emotional journey through adoption. Jesse and Ramon are a loving couple, but after years spent unsuccessfully trying to get pregnant, they turn to adoption, relieved to think that once they navigate the bureaucratic path to parent-hood they will have a happy ending. But nothing has prepared them for the labyrinthine process—for the many training sessions and approvals; for the constant advice from friends, strangers, and "experts"; for the birthmothers who contact them but don't ultimately choose them; or even, most shockingly, for the women who call claiming they've chosen Jesse and Ramon but turn out never to have been pregnant in the first place. Jennifer Gilmore's eloquence about the

human heart—its frailties and complexities—and her razor-sharp observations about race, class, culture, and changing family dynamics are spectacularly combined in this powerful novel. Suffused with passion and fury, *The Mothers* is a taut, gripping, and satisfying book that will stay with readers long after they turn the last page. “Sex & The City meets *The Wall Street Journal*...Juicy, smart, dramatic and insightful—an addictive read.” —Beth Kobliner, author of *Get a Financial Life: Personal Finance in Your Twenties and Thirties* and *In The Secret Currency of Love*, edited by Hilary Black, acclaimed, bestselling, and award-winning women writers explore the fraught and powerful connections between love and money. As featured on the “Today Show”—with contributions by Karen Karbo, Kathryn Harrison, Lori Gottlieb, Julia Glass, Rebecca Traister, Dani Shapiro, Amy Sohn, and others—*The Secret Currency of Love* takes an unabashed look at relationships through the often-distorting lens of finance. As *Elle* magazine informs us, “All the bases are covered here, from the hard lessons women learn (and impart) to the inextricability of romance and cold hard cash.” One of today's best young American writers transforms into a work of art the darkest passage imaginable in a young woman's life: an obsessive love affair between father and daughter. The National Book Award-winning coming-out memoir. “One of the most complex, moral, personal, and political books to have been written about gay life” (*LA Weekly*). Paul Monette grew up all-American, Catholic, overachieving . . . and closeted. As a child of the 1950s, a time when a kid suspected of being a “homo” would routinely be beaten up, Monette kept his secret throughout his adolescence. He wrestled with his sexuality for the first thirty years of his life, priding himself on his ability to “pass” for straight. The story of his journey to adulthood and to self-acceptance with grace and honesty, this intimate portrait of a young man's struggle with his own desires is witty, humorous, and deeply felt. Before his death of complications from AIDS in 1995, Monette was an outspoken activist crusading for gay rights. *Becoming a Man* shows his courageous path to stand up for his own right to love and be loved. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Paul Monette including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the Paul Monette papers of the UCLA Library Special Collections. Bestselling novelist and memoirist Harrison, whose depictions of women have been called “powerful” (“*The New York Times Book Review*”), brings to the saint's life her storytelling gift and deep insight as she reveals the hopes and fears of the young girl behind the religious icon. An extraordinary, powerful and beautifully written memoir of a daughter's abuse by, and attachment to, her father. Throughout her childhood and adolescence, the anonymous author of *The Incest Diary* was raped by her father. Beneath a veneer of normal family life, she grew up in and around this all-encompassing secret. Her sexual relationship with her father lasted, off and on,

into her twenties. It formed her world, and it formed her deepest fears and desires. Even after she broke away - even as she grew into an independent and adventurous young woman - she continued to seek out new versions of the violence, submission and secrecy she had struggled to leave behind. In this graphic and harrowing memoir, the author revisits her early traumas and their aftermath - not from a clinical distance, but from deep within - to explore the ways in which her father's abuse shaped her, and still does. As a matter of psychic survival, she became both a sexual object and a detached observer, a dutiful daughter and the protector of a dirty secret. And then, years later, she made herself write it down. With lyric concision, in vignettes of almost unbearable intensity, this writer tells a story that is shocking but that will ring true to many other survivors of abuse. It has never been faced so directly on the page. Kathryn Harrison gives us a Joan of Arc for our time—a shining exemplar of unshakable faith, extraordinary courage, and self-confidence on the battlefield, in the royal court, during a brutally rigged inquisition and imprisonment, and in the face of her death. In this new take on Joan's story, Harrison deftly weaves historical fact, myth, folklore, scripture, artistic representations, and centuries of scholarly and critical interpretation into a fascinating narrative, revitalizing our sense of Joan as one of the greatest heroines in all of human history. Meet the people who make it all happen—the photographers, chefs, and the writers who have helped orchestrate and document the perfect day for countless couples—as they find their own happy endings in three sweet novellas. *Picture Perfect Love: A June Wedding Story* by Melissa McClone When image becomes everything, it's up to love to refocus the heart. Photographer Jenna Harrison wants every bride and groom to look picture perfect on their special day. But her own heart is still broken, the unworn wedding dress hanging in her closet a reminder that relationships aren't always as perfect as they look through her camera lens. Attorney Ashton Vance is the one that got away, but he wrongly blamed Jenna for ruining his political aspirations. Even if Jenna can forgive him, dare he hope for a second chance at her love? *I Hope You Dance: A July Wedding Story* by Robin Lee Hatcher Will a sworn bachelor determined to stay single fall in love with his dance teacher? Grant Nichols is a genius in the kitchen and a klutz on the dance floor. But his friend's wedding is shaping up to be a shindig the likes of which Kings Meadow has never seen—including dancing. Lots of dancing. Former rodeo queen Skye Foster is offering dance lessons for the wedding party. Grant and Skye are no match on paper. But when they step onto the dance floor, they create a melody all their own. *Love on a Deadline: An August Wedding Story* by Kathryn Springer MacKenzie "Mac" Davis returns to her hometown of Red Leaf, Wisconsin, and takes a job at the weekly newspaper writing about social events. When Hollis Channing, Mac's high school nemesis, returns to Red Leaf to marry her

celebrity fiancé, the editor asks Mac to cover all the festivities for the newspaper. The last thing Mac wants to do is reconnect with the person who made her life miserable when she was a teenager . . . unless it's spending time with Ethan Channing, the bride's older brother—and Mac's first crush. Three novellas from the Year of Weddings novella collection in one book Inspiring wedding stories by bestselling romance authors Includes discussion questions for book clubs Displaying her "real talent for conjuring far-flung times and places," Kathryn Harrison tells the mesmerizing story of her 200-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In the spring of 1999, Kathryn Harrison set out to walk the centuries-old pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. "Not a vacation, " she calls it, "but a time out of time." With a heavy pack, no hotel reservations, and little Spanish, she wanted an experience that would be both physically and psychically demanding. No pain, no gain, she thought, and she had some important things to contemplate. But the pilgrim road was spattered with violets and punctuated by medieval churches and alpine views, and, despite the exhaustion, aching knees, and brutal sun, she was unexpectedly flooded with joy and gratitude for life's gifts. "Why do I like this road?" she writes. "Why do I love it? What can be the comfort of understanding my footprint as just one among the millions? . . . While I'm walking I feel myself alive, feel my small life burning brightly." Throughout this deeply personal and revealing memoir of her journey, first made alone and later in the company of her daughter, Harrison blends striking images of the route and her fellow pilgrims with reflections on the redemptive power of pilgrimages, mortality, family, the nature of endurance, the past and future, the mystery of friendship. The Road to Santiago is an exquisitely written, courageous, and irresistible portrait of a personal pilgrimage in search of a broader understanding of life and self. New York Times bestselling author of Labor Day With a New Preface When it was first published in 1998, At Home in the World set off a furor in the literary world and beyond. Joyce Maynard's memoir broke a silence concerning her relationship—at age eighteen—with J.D. Salinger, the famously reclusive author of The Catcher in the Rye, then age fifty-three, who had read a story she wrote for The New York Times in her freshman year of college and sent her a letter that changed her life. Reviewers called her book "shameless" and "powerful" and its author was simultaneously reviled and cheered. With what some have viewed as shocking honesty, Maynard explores her coming of age in an alcoholic family, her mother's dream to mold her into a writer, her self-imposed exile from the world of her peers when she left Yale to live with Salinger, and her struggle to reclaim her sense of self in the crushing aftermath of his dismissal of her not long after her nineteenth birthday. A quarter of a century later—having become a writer, survived the end of her marriage and the deaths of her

parents, and with an eighteen-year-old daughter of her own—Maynard pays a visit to the man who broke her heart. The story she tells—of the girl she was and the woman she became—is at once devastating, inspiring, and triumphant. Will has a good sex life—with the woman he married. So why then is he increasingly plagued by violent erotic fantasies that, were they to break out of his imagination and into the real world, have the power to destroy not only his family but his career? He's about to lose his grip when he attends a college reunion and there discovers evidence of a past sexual betrayal, one serious enough that it threatens to overpower the present, even as it offers a key to Will's dangerous obsessions. Hypnotic, beautifully written, this mesmerizing novel by "an extremely gifted writer" (San Francisco Chronicle) explores the corrosive effect of evil—and how painful psychological truths long buried within a family can corrupt the present and, through courage and understanding, lead to healing and renewal. "Like Scheherezade in the grip of a fever dream, Kathryn Harrison . . . has written one of those rare books, in language of unparalleled beauty, that affirm the holiness of life," said Shirley Ann Grau, about *Poison*. And the same can be said about *Envy*. Credited with sparking the current memoir explosion, Mary Karr's *The Liars' Club* spent more than a year at the top of the New York Times list. She followed with two other smash bestsellers: *Cherry and Lit*, which were critical hits as well. For thirty years Karr has also taught the form, winning teaching prizes at Syracuse. (The writing program there produced such acclaimed authors as Cheryl Strayed, Keith Gessen, and Koren Zailckas.) In *The Art of Memoir*, she synthesizes her expertise as professor and therapy patient, writer and spiritual seeker, recovered alcoholic and "black belt sinner," providing a unique window into the mechanics and art of the form that is as irreverent, insightful, and entertaining as her own work in the genre. Anchored by excerpts from her favorite memoirs and anecdotes from fellow writers' experience, *The Art of Memoir* lays bare Karr's own process. (Plus all those inside stories about how she dealt with family and friends get told—and the dark spaces in her own skull probed in depth.) As she breaks down the key elements of great literary memoir, she breaks open our concepts of memory and identity, and illuminates the cathartic power of reflecting on the past; anybody with an inner life or complicated history, whether writer or reader, will relate. Joining such classics as Stephen King's *On Writing* and Anne Lamott's *Bird by Bird*, *The Art of Memoir* is an elegant and accessible exploration of one of today's most popular literary forms—a tour de force from an accomplished master pulling back the curtain on her craft. Stunning, hypnotic, spare, *The Seal Wife* is the masterly new novel by Kathryn Harrison, "a writer of extraordinary gifts" (Tobias Wolff). Set in Alaska in 1915, it tells the story of a young scientist's consuming love for a woman known as the Aleut, a woman who never speaks, who

refuses to reveal so much as her name. Born and educated in midwestern cities, Bigelow is sent north by the United States government to establish a weather observatory in Anchorage. But what could have prepared him for the loneliness of a railroad town with more than two thousand men and only a handful of women, or for winter nights twenty hours long? And what can protect him from obsession—obsession with a woman who seems in her silence and mystery to possess the power to destroy his life forever, and obsession with the weather kite he invents, a kite he hopes will fly higher than any has ever flown before and will penetrate the secrets of the heavens? A novel of passions both dangerous and generative, *The Seal Wife* explores the nature of desire and its ability to propel an individual beyond himself and convention. As she brilliantly reimagines the terrain of the Alaskan frontier during the period of the First World War, Harrison, a “master of her material” (Mary Gordon), also evokes early efforts to chart the weather and reveals the interior realm of the psyche and emotions—a human landscape that, in its splendor and terror, is profoundly and eerily reminiscent of the frozen frontier and the storms that scour its face.

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