



Small Beer Press

& Big Mouth House

Fall/Winter 2012

JOAN AIKEN · PETER DICKINSON · ANGELICA GORODISCHER · ELIZABETH HAND
KIJ JOHNSON · KATHE KOJA · NANCY KRESS · URSULA K. LE GUIN
LYDIA MILLET · SOFIA SAMATAR



Small Beer Press

The cover art for this catalog shows images from the covers of one of the biggest books we have ever published, *The Unreal and the Real: Selected Stories of Ursula K. Le Guin*, so big it comes in two volumes: *Volume One: Where on Earth* (p.13) and *Volume Two: Outer Space, Inner Lands* (p.15).

Big Mouth House is our imprint devoted to fiction for readers of all ages and we are proud to announce that we are adding British author Peter Dickinson to our list. In September, we will publish a new collection of stories *Earth and Air* (p.9). In following seasons we will reprint many of his novels that we have long loved.

As ever, all our books are printed on at least 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

We are an independent press publishing books for independent-minded readers. We love independent bookstores and hope our readers will support them. If there isn't a good indie near you, we recommend indiebound.org.

Most of our books are available as ebooks through our ebooksite, weightlessbooks.com, as well as all the other usual places. As with all independent businesses, we survive on thin margins and while we love sharing books with friends and checking out books from the library we sincerely appreciate you not oversharing our DRM-free ebooks.

Please check our online events calendar for author readings, festival appearances, conventions, conferences, &c, smallbeerpress.com/not-a-journal for updates and so on. Thanks for reading.

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weightlessbooks.com

Small Beer Press Catalog No. 8, June 2012.

Available in print or as a DRM-free PDF ebook.

Front cover art *The Unreal and the Real* by tugboatprintshop.com.

Back cover art by Kevin Huizenga (usscatastrophe.com/kh).

Frontlist
3

Recent titles
24

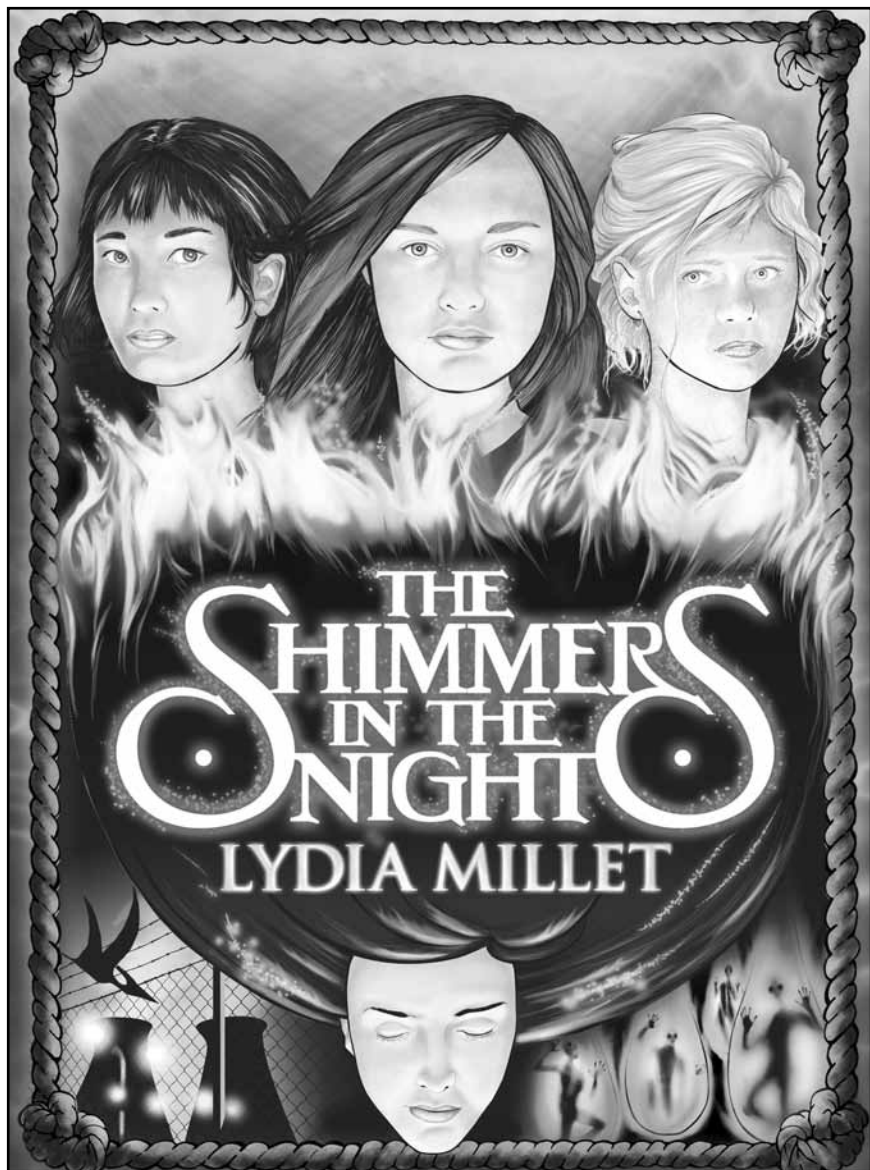
Backlist
32

*Author/Title index
& World Rights*
36

*Ordering
Information*
37

“Our islands
are full of ghosts.”

Sofia Samatar
A Stranger in Olondria



Big Mouth House

A Junior Library Guild Selection

“Nicely serious eco-fantasy.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

This might be the worst weekend of Cara’s life. Her mother is still missing and her brother Jax is off at “smart kid boot camp” in Boston. When he texts Cara asking to be rescued, she and her two best friends go into action. The camp turns out to be a front for Cara’s mother’s organization who are fighting against a force which brooks no dissent against its wish to make the planet over in its own image—to clean it up, leaving no space for anything else, animal, insect, or human.

Tension ratchets up as Cara and her friends learn more about the threat their mother is fighting, about how strange Cara’s mother really is, about how some of the people they’ve known all their lives might be their enemies, about what it means to be human, and most strange and wonderful of all, about the mysterious Dissenters they have suddenly become a part of.

Lydia Millet is the author of six novels, including *My Happy Life* (PEN-USA Award winner), *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart* (shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award), and *Ghost Lights*. Her short story collection *Love in Infant Monkeys* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. She works at an endangered-species protection group and has just been named a Guggenheim fellow. *The Shimmers in the Night* is the second book in the Dissenters series. She is presently at work on the third. (lydiamillet.net)

Praise for the first book in The Dissenters Series:

Selected for the ABC Best Books for Children Catalog

“A well-done beginning, with some riveting moments and frightening escapes, to what should prove to be a popular series.”

—*School Library Journal*

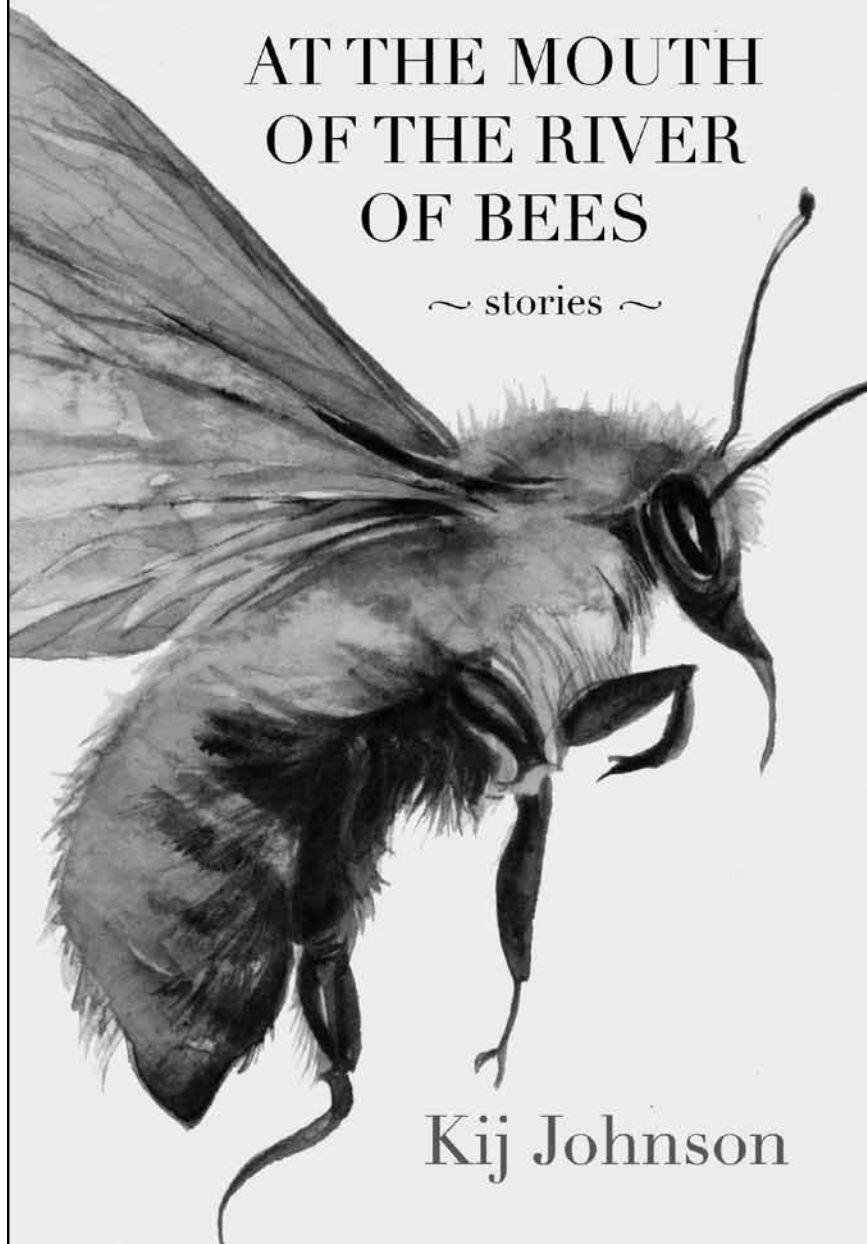
August

Fiction/Fantasy · Middle Grade · 9781931520782 · trade cloth · \$16.95 · 256pp · World
9781931520799 · ebook · \$9.95

"I can't think of any other writer whose stories terrify
me the way Johnson's do."—Lev Grossman

AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER OF BEES

~ stories ~



Kij Johnson

Trade paperback original

“Wonderful.”— Alan Cheuse, NPR

“I can’t think of any other writer whose stories terrify me the way Johnson’s do. But they’re so intelligent and human and weirdly perfect, I can’t stay away.”—Lev Grossman

“A writer of range, originality, precision, and power. Enthusiastically recommended.”—Karen Joy Fowler

Johnson’s stories received the Nebula Award for the last three years running, including for the book’s capstone story, “The Man Who Bridged the Mist.”

Johnson’s stories range from historical Japan (Sturgeon award winner “Fox Magic”) to metafictional explorations of story structure (“Story Kit”). Nebula award winners “Spar” and “Ponies” are perhaps most shocking and captivating, but each of the seventeen stories here is a highlight selected from Johnson’s more than two decades of work.

These stories feature cats, bees, wolves, dogs, and even that most capricious of animals, humans, and have been reprinted in *The Year’s Best Fantasy & Horror*, *Best Science Fiction & Fantasy of the Year*, and *The Secret History of Fantasy*.

At the Mouth of the River of Bees is one of the most anticipated debut science fiction short story collections in recent years. Read an excerpt on p.34.

5

Kij Johnson’s novels include *The Fox Woman* and *Fudoki*. She has taught at Louisiana State and the University of Kansas. She has run chain and independent bookstores and has worked at Tor and Dark Horse, as a radio announcer and engineer, edited cryptic crosswords, and waitressed in a strip bar. She has an MFA in Creative Writing and is an Assistant Professor of Fiction Writing at the University of Kansas. (kijjohnson.com)

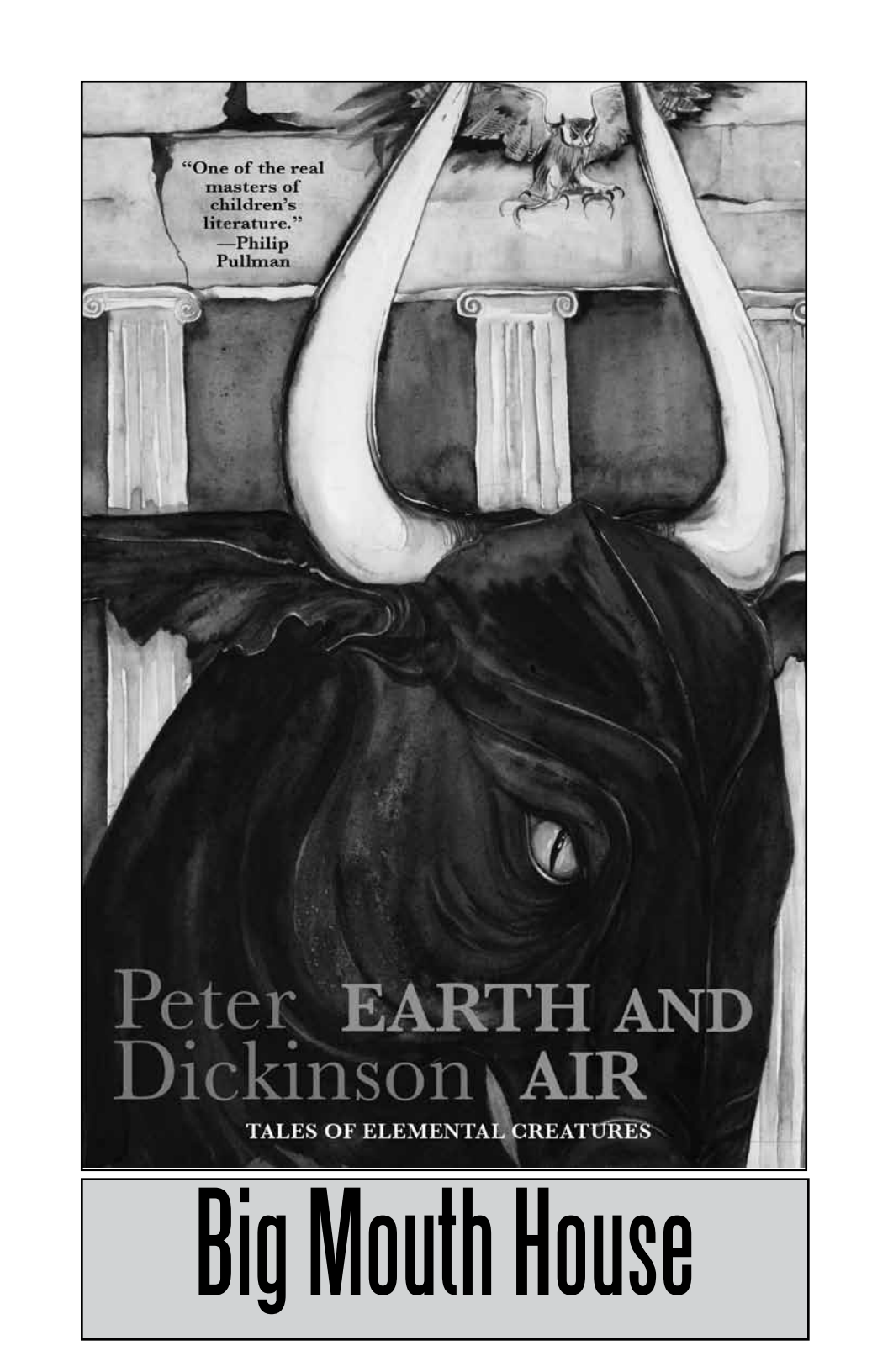
Praise for Kij Johnson’s writing:

“*The Fox Woman* immediately sets the author in the front rank of today’s novelists.”—Lloyd Alexander

“Johnson’s prose is uncommonly musical.”—*Publishers Weekly*

August

Fiction/Fantasy/Science Fiction · 9781931520805 · trade paper · \$16 · 310pp · USC
9781931520812 · ebook · \$9.95



"One of the real
masters of
children's
literature."
—Philip
Pullman

Peter **EARTH AND**
Dickinson **AIR**

TALES OF ELEMENTAL CREATURES

Big Mouth House

Tales of Elemental Creatures

“The elements are not the only thing holding these six stories together; thematic territory here is concerned primarily with the meanings of humanity and love. . . . strange, sometimes beautiful tales.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Peter Dickinson has long been one of our favorite authors and we are very proud that we are publishing a new collection of Dickinson’s stories—and we will go on to reprint many of his novels for both children and adults.

Earth and Air is a continuation of the idea Dickinson started exploring with his wife, Robin McKinley, in their shared collection, *Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits*. In these new stories, changelings, gryphons, and gods get in the way of us mortals who are struggling to find someone to fall in love with, something interesting to do, somewhere to run to. These stories are smart, funny, and provocative but even as they float the reader away on a cloud of myth, they remain firmly grounded.

Earth and Air will be published in trade cloth, trade paper, and ebook.

Peter Dickinson OBE is a two-time winner of both the Carnegie Medal and Whitbread Award and winner of the Guardian Award. He lives in England and is married to the novelist Robin McKinley. (peterdickinson.com)

7

Praise for Peter Dickinson’s books:

“As much as anything, this book is about the power of story and the influence it can have on ordinary people’s lives.”—*School Library Journal*

Magnificent. Peter Dickinson is the past-master story-teller of our day.”
—*Times Literary Supplement*

“A national treasure.”—*The Guardian*

“Wholly enjoyable—fascinating, sophisticated and funny.”—*The Times*

““A haunting novel that resonates with ancient and primitive mysteries.”
—*The New York Times Book Review*

September

Fiction/Fantasy · 9781618730589 · trade cloth · \$17.95 · 256pp · World
9781618730381 · trade paper · \$14.95 | 9781618730589 · ebook · \$9.95



UNDER THE POPPY

KATHE KOJA

Galactic Spectrum Award winner · Longlisted for the IMPAC Award

“Magical, seductive, and strange.”—Bethanne Patrick, *Beyond the Margins*

“Koja can pack a lot Dickensian humor into a sentence.”—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“Koja’s language is at its poetic best.”—Cory Doctorow

“An atmospheric tale for those who like their historical fiction on the dark and lurid side.”—*Library Journal*

“A page turner with riveting language and close attention to sensory detail.”—*Publishers Weekly*

From a wartime brothel to the intricate high society of 1870s Brussels, *Under the Poppy* opens the curtains on a tale of childhood friends, puppet masters, a love triangle, and reluctant spies. Under the Poppy is a brothel owned by Decca and Rupert. Decca is in love with Rupert . . . but he in turn is in love with her brother, Istvan. When Istvan comes to town, louche puppet troupe in tow, the lines of their age-old desires intersect against a backdrop of approaching war.

Hearts are broken when old betrayals and new alliances—not just their own—take shape, as the townsmen seek refuge from the onslaught of history by watching the girls of the Poppy cavort onstage with Istvan’s naughty puppets.

With the war getting too close, Istvan and Rupert abandon the Poppy and find a place in high society where they try to avoid becoming more than puppets themselves in the hands of those they have helped before and who now want to use them again. *Under the Poppy* is a vivid, sexy historical novel as delicious and intoxicating as the best guilty pleasure.

Small Beer Press will publish the followup, *The Mercury Waltz*, in 2013.

Kathe Koja’s books have been published in seven languages and optioned for film. *Under the Poppy* is currently being adapted for the stage.

September

Fiction · 9781618730275 · trade paper · \$16 · 360pp · USC
9781931520881 · ebook · \$9.95

THE UNREAL
AND THE REAL
SELECTED STORIES OF
URSULA K. LE GUIN

—
VOLUME ONE

Where on Earth



Where on Earth

Ursula K. Le Guin's stories have shaped the way many readers see the world. By giving voice to the voiceless, hope to the outsider, and speaking truth to power—all the time maintaining her independence and sense of humor—she has proven herself one of our greatest writers.

This two-volume selection of Le Guin's stories—as selected by the author—omits stories directly connected to novels. The first volume, *Where on Earth*, focusses on Le Guin's interests in realism and magic realism and includes stories from *The Compass Rose*, *Orsinian Tales*, *The Wind's Twelve Quarters*, *Buffalo Gals*, *Searoad*, and *Unlocking the Air*.

The Unreal and the Real is a much-anticipated event which will delight, amuse, and provoke.

Ursula K. Le Guin has published eleven short story collections, twenty-one novels, essays, poetry, translations, and books for children, and has received the PEN-Malamud and National Book Awards, among others. Also due this year is *Finding My Elegy*, *New and Selected Poems*. She lives in Portland, OR. (ursulakleguin.com)

11

Praise for Ursula K. Le Guin's short story collections:

"She is the reigning queen of...but immediately we come to a difficulty, for what is the fitting name of her kingdom? Or, in view of her abiding concern with the ambiguities of gender, her queendom, or perhaps—considering how she likes to mix and match—her quinkdom? Or may she more properly be said to have not one such realm, but two?"

—Margaret Atwood, *New York Review of Books*

"Like all great writers of fiction, Ursula K. Le Guin creates imaginary worlds that restore us, hearts eased, to our own."—*Boston Globe*

November

Fiction/Short Stories · 9781618730343 · trade cloth · \$24 · 300pp · World
9781618730367 · ebook · \$14.95

THE UNREAL AND THE REAL

SELECTED STORIES OF
URSULA K. LE GUIN

VOLUME TWO

Outer Space, Inner Lands



Outer Space, Inner Lands

Ursula K. Le Guin's nonrealistic stories which have shaped the way many readers see the world. She gives voice to the voiceless, hope to the outsider, and speaks truth to power—all the time maintaining her independence and sense of humor.

This two-volume selection of Le Guin's stories—as selected by the author—omits stories directly connected to novels. The second volume, *Outer Space, Inner Lands*, focusses on Le Guin's stories of the fantastic such as “The Ones Who Walked Away from Omelas” and “The Matter of Seggri” and includes stories from *The Compass Rose*, *The Wind's Twelve Quarters*, *Buffalo Gals*, *Fisberman of the Inland Sea*, *The Birthday of the World*, and *Changing Planes*.

The Unreal and the Real is a much-anticipated event which will delight, amuse, and provoke.

Ursula K. Le Guin has published eleven short story collections, twenty-one novels, essays, poetry, translations, and books for children, and has received the PEN-Malamud and National Book Awards, among others. Her novel, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, is a Big Read title. She lives in Portland, OR. (ursulakleguin.com)

13

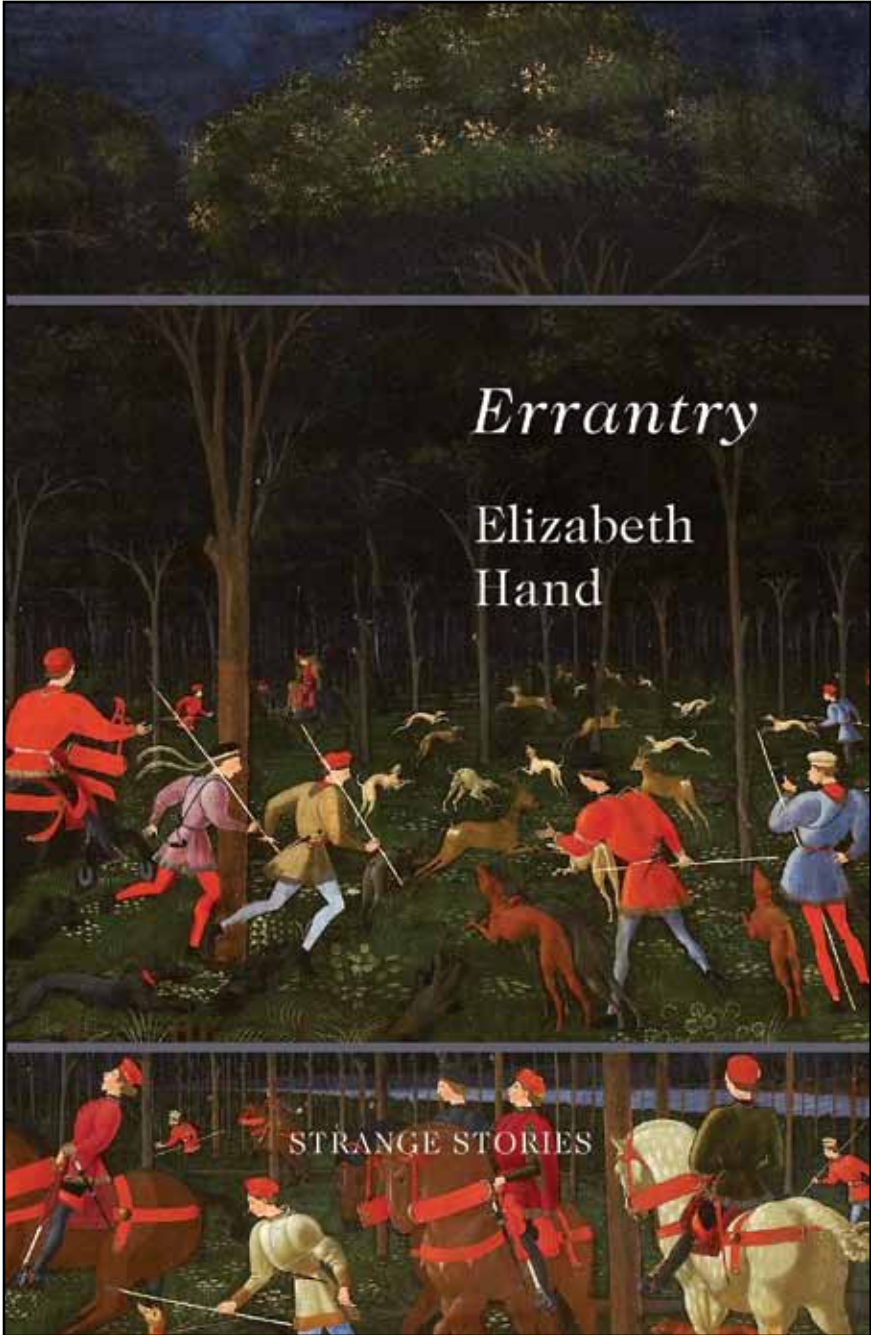
Praise for Ursula K. Le Guin's short story collections:

“She wields her pen with a moral and psychological sophistication rarely seen . . . and while science fiction techniques often buttress her stories they rarely take them over. What she really does is write fables: splendidly intricate and hugely imaginative tales about such mundane concerns as life, death, love, and sex.”—*Newsweek*

“In her impeccable prose, without rancor but also without illusion, Le Guin casts a clear eye on this world of ours, and delineates all the heinous and dazzling things it is and was and may become.”—*The Bloomsbury Review*

November

Fiction/Short Stories · 9781618730350 · trade cloth · \$24 · 336pp · World
9781618730374 · ebook · \$14.95



Errantry

Elizabeth
Hand

STRANGE STORIES

Trade paperback original

No one is innocent, no one unexamined in award-winning author Elizabeth Hand's new collection of stories. From the mysterious people next door to the odd guy in the next office over, Hand teases apart the dark strangenesses of everyday life to show us the impossibilities, broken dreams, and improbable dreams that surely can never come true.

Hand is the Guest of Honor at the World Fantasy Convention, to be held in Toronto, November 1–4, 2012.

Includes Shirley Jackson Award winner and World Fantasy Award finalist "Near Zennor."

Elizabeth Hand's novels include *Generation Loss* (Shirley Jackson award winner), *Mortal Love*, and *Available Dark*. Her writing has received the Tiptree, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards, among others. Hand is a longtime contributor to the *Washington Post Book World* and the *Village Voice*. She divides her time between the coast of Maine and North London. (elizabethhand.com)

Praise for Elizabeth Hand's books:

"Lovely and unsettling."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

Praise for *Available Dark*

"Brilliant."—*Booklist*, Starred Review

"Stunning."—*Publishers Weekly*, *Starred Review*

"Fiercely frightening yet hauntingly beautiful . . . shimmers with gorgeous writing even as it scares the dickens out of you."

—Tess Gerritsen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Silent Girl*

"A sinful pleasure."

—Katherine Dunn, author of *Geek Love*

November

Fiction/Short Stories · 9781618730305 · trade paper · \$16 · 320pp · USC
9781618730312 · ebook · \$9.95

TWO TIME WINNER OF THE GOLDEN DAGGER AWARD

Peter Dickinson

DEATH OF A UNICORN



First Peter Dickinson mystery reprint

In 1950s London, young Lady Margaret Millett is caught mid-yawn at a party by a striking stranger who, intrigued, hires her to write a society gossip column for his magazine. As Margaret takes her first steps away from her identical twin, their domineering mother, and the stately family house, she falls in love and does things that she never thought she was capable of. But even as she settles into her new life, tragedy is approaching.

Thirty years later, Lady Margaret, now a bestselling romance novelist, answers the phone. A voice from that long-dead existence speaks, and suddenly the rules and assumptions of her life are shattered again. Crucial allegiances of love and family are suspect and her buried memories must be exhumed. Secrets are revisited and she has to reassess a life that led to fame—but also to untimely death. This classic British mystery will be especially appealing to fans of *Downton Abbey*.

Peter Dickinson OBE has twice received the Crime Writers' Association's Gold Dagger as well as the Guardian Award and Whitbread Prize. He worked at *Punch* magazine for seventeen years. His latest book is *Earth and Air: Tales of Elemental Spirits*. He lives in England and is married to the novelist Robin McKinley. (peterdickinson.com)

17

Praise for Peter Dickinson's mysteries:

"Revitalises the traditions of the mystery genre . . . a master."—P. D. James

"Sets new standards in the mystery field."—Ruth Rendell

"A literary magician."—Penelope Lively

"Read this book carefully. It's a jewel."—*The New York Times Review*

"Wry, witty, irresistible."—*The Financial Times*

January 2013

Mystery/Crime · 9781618730404 · trade paper · \$16 · 204pp · USC
9781618730411 · ebook · \$9.95



TRAFALGAR

A NOVEL

ANGÉLICA
GORODISCHER

Translated by Amalia Gladhart

First English language edition

When you run into Trafalgar Medrano at the Jockey Club or the Burgundy and he stops you to tell you about his latest intergalactic sales trip and all the lovely women he met and the trouble that he just managed to escape, don't try to rush him. You know he always likes to stretch things out over exactly seven coffees. Besides, no one knows whether he actually travels to the stars but he's the best storyteller around, so why worry?

Angélica Gorodischer was born in 1929 in Buenos Aires and has lived most of her life in Rosario, Argentina. She is the author of more than twenty books, including *Kalpa Imperial*. She has received many awards for her work including most recently the World Fantasy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amalia Gladhart is the translator of two novels by Ecuadorian novelist Alicia Yánez Cossío, *The Potbellied Virgin* and *Beyond the Islands*. Her chapbook *Detours* won Burnside Review Fiction Chapbook Contest. Her poetry and short fiction have appeared in *Iowa Review*, *Bellingham Review*, and elsewhere. She is Professor of Spanish at the University of Oregon.

Praise for *Kalpa Imperial*

"Those looking for offbeat literary fantasy will welcome *Kalpa Imperial*."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Le Guin's translation of a work by a prominent Argentine writer elegantly articulates the shifting tones of the larger narrative, whose theme seems to be the endless imperfectibility of human society."

—*New York Times* Summer Reading

"Evokes weighty matters lightly and speaks of self-evident wisdom while itself remaining mysterious."—*Washington Post*

"A useful tonic and reminder that the irascible perspectives of Borges and Cortazar are alive and well."—*Bridge Magazine*

February 2013

Fiction · 9781618730329 · trade paper · \$16 · 256pp · World English
9781618730336 · ebook · \$9.95

"Mesmerizing. Reminds both Samatar's characters and her readers of the way stories make us long for faraway, even imaginary, places and how they also bring us home again."—Karen Joy Fowler, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*

SOFIA SAMATAR
A STRANGER
IN
OLONDRIA



An Amazing Debut Novel

“Mesmerizing—a sustained and dreamy enchantment.”—Karen Joy Fowler

“A Proustian ghost story.”—Paul Witcover

“Sofia Samatar is a merchant of wonders.”—Greer Gilman

Jevick, the pepper merchant’s son, has been raised on stories of Olondria, a distant land where books are as common as they are rare in his home—but which his mother calls the Ghost Country. When his father dies and Jevick takes his place on the yearly selling trip to Olondria, Jevick’s life is as close to perfect as he can imagine. Just as he revels in Olondria’s Rabelaisian Feast of Birds, he is pulled drastically off course and becomes haunted by the ghost of an illiterate young girl.

In desperation, Jevick seeks the aid of Olondrian priests and quickly becomes a pawn in the struggle between the empire’s two most powerful cults. Even as the country shimmers on the cusp of war, he must face his ghost and learn her story before he has any chance of freeing himself by setting her free: an ordeal that challenges his understanding of art and life, home and exile, and the limits of that most seductive of necromancies, reading.

A Stranger in Olondria was written while the author taught in South Sudan. It is a rich and heady brew which pulls the reader in deeper and still deeper with twists and turns that hearken back to *Gormenghast* while being as immersive as George R. R. Martin’s *Game of Thrones*. Read an excerpt on p.35.

WPR To the Best of Our Knowledge interview.

National advertising campaign · Social media campaign.

Consortium galley box. LibraryThing and Goodreads giveaways.

Author tour: Maplewood, NJ; New York, NY; Madison, WI.

Sofia Samatar is an American of Somali and Swiss-German Mennonite background. She has worked in Egypt and Yambio, South Sudan, and is pursuing a PhD in African Languages and Literature at the University of Madison, WI. (sofiasamatar.blogspot.com)

April 2013

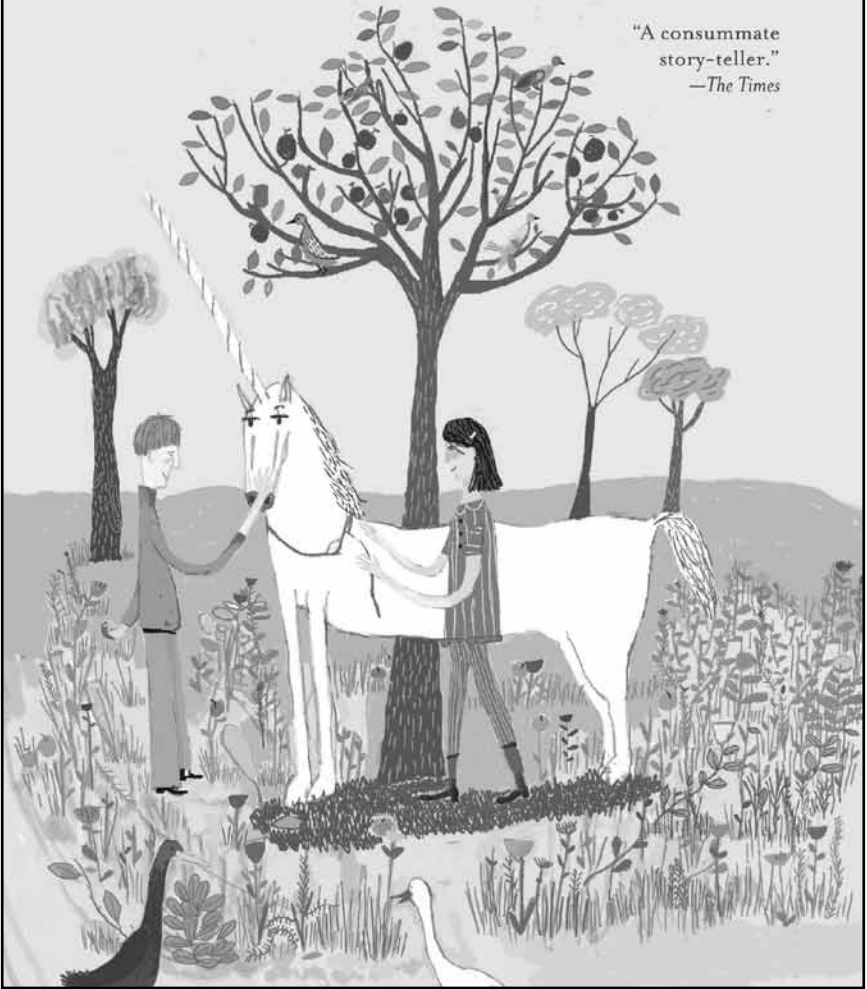
Fiction/Fantasy · 9781618730626 · trade cloth · \$24 · 300pp · World
9781931520768 · trade paper · \$16 | 9781931520775 · ebook · \$9.95

Spring 2012 Title

SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE NOTABLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

JOAN AIKEN
THE SERIAL GARDEN
The Complete Armitage
Family Stories

"A consummate
story-teller."
—*The Times*



Big Mouth House

A Junior Library Guild Selection · First paperback edition

“Aiken’s invention seemed inexhaustible, her high spirits a blessing, her sheer storytelling zest a phenomenon.”—Philip Pullman

“Buy it to read to your kids, and you’ll find yourself sneaking tastes on the sly; a little Aiken is a fine thing to have in your system at any age.”—*Salon*

“You can’t do better than to get your fantasy-reading child hooked on Aiken’s playful, witty magic.”—Parent Central/*Toronto Star*

Because of a wish made by their mother before they were born, Mark and Harriet Armitage lead lives full of magic and strangeness. Every Monday (and occasionally on Tuesday) *interesting* things happen: the Board of Incantation tries to take over the family house to use as a school for young wizards; a bargain price golden apple brings a visit from the Furies; Harriet climbs an apple tree and finds herself in the Land of Heroes. In the title story, when Mark assembles a diorama from cutouts on a cereal box, he enters into a beautiful palace garden where an ancient and tragic mistake must be undone. The uncommon lives of the Armitage family will thrill and delight readers young and old.

The Serial Garden is the first complete collection of Joan Aiken’s twenty-four beloved Armitage family stories—including four published here for the first time. The collection also includes Joan Aiken’s “Prelude” to the series from *Armitage, Armitage, Fly Away Home*, as well as introductions from Joan Aiken’s daughter, Lizza Aiken, and best-selling author Garth Nix.

Joan Aiken (1924–2004) wrote over a hundred books and was perhaps best known for the dozen novels in *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* series. She received the Guardian and Edgar Allan Poe awards for fiction and in 1999 she was awarded an MBE for her contributions to children’s literature. Find out more about her at www.joanaiken.com.

April 2012

Fiction/Fantasy · Middle Grade · 9781931520829 · trade paper · \$16 · 352pp · USC
9781931520980 · ebook · \$9.95

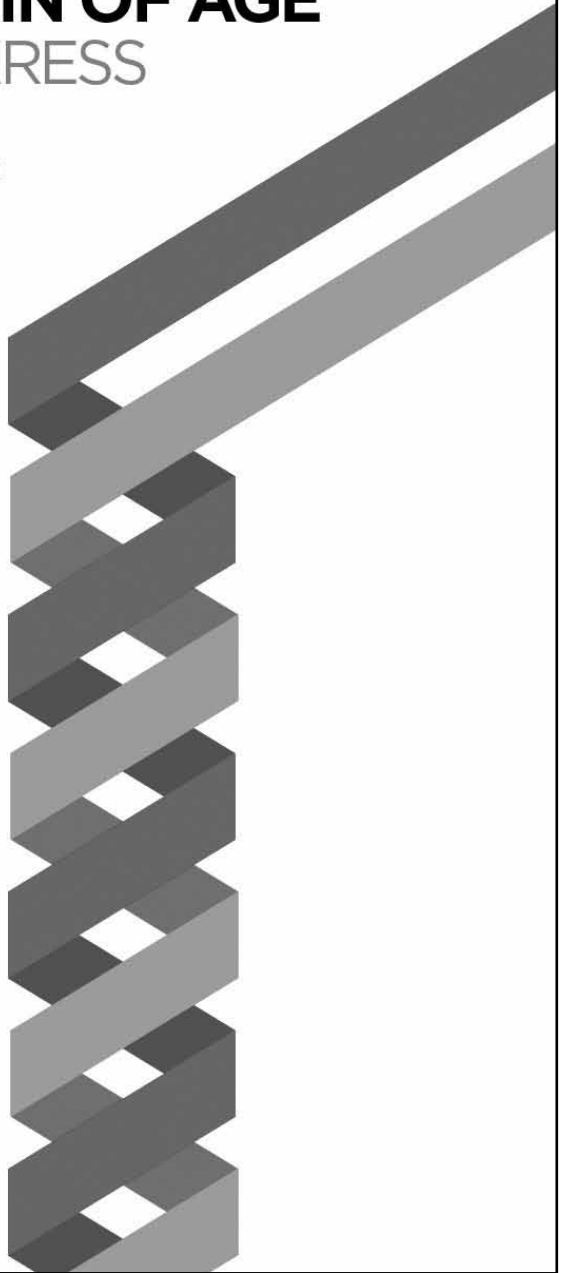
Spring 2012 Title

FOUNTAIN OF AGE

NANCY KRESS

STORIES

Hugo and Nebula Award
winning author of
Beggars in Spain



Trade paperback original

“What stands out is that Ms. Kress’s characters have developed interior lives. . . . she is a wise woman.”—Tom Shippey, *Wall Street Journal*

“Quality oozes from every page. A master class in the art of short-story writing.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Passions are magnified by age and the world only becomes more unpredictable in Kress’s new collection, anchored by the Nebula-winning title novella. The nine stories, published over the course of just two years, wrestle with themes of love, death, and transformation. . . . Kress’s depiction of science is much like her characters’ experiences with love: by turns glorious and terrible, and always a little disturbing, even in triumph.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Nine new stories from a long-time star of the science fiction field including the Hugo Award winner “The Erdmann Nexus” and the caper-inspired Nebula Award winning title story “Fountain of Age.”

Kress unpacks the future the way DNA investigators unravelled the double helix: one gene at a time. In many of these stories gene sculpting is illegal yet commonplace and the effects range between slow catastrophe (“End Game”), cosmic (“First Rites”), and tragic (“Safeguard”). Then there’s the morning when Rochester disappears and Jenny has to rely on “The Kindness of Strangers.” There’s Jill, who is kidnapped by aliens and trying to learn the “Laws of Survival.” And there’s Hope, whose Grandma is regretting the world built “By Fools Like Me.”

“End Game” & “The Kindness of Strangers” are available as podcasts and many of these stories have been reprinted in The Year’s Best Science Fiction, Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year, and Best of the Web.

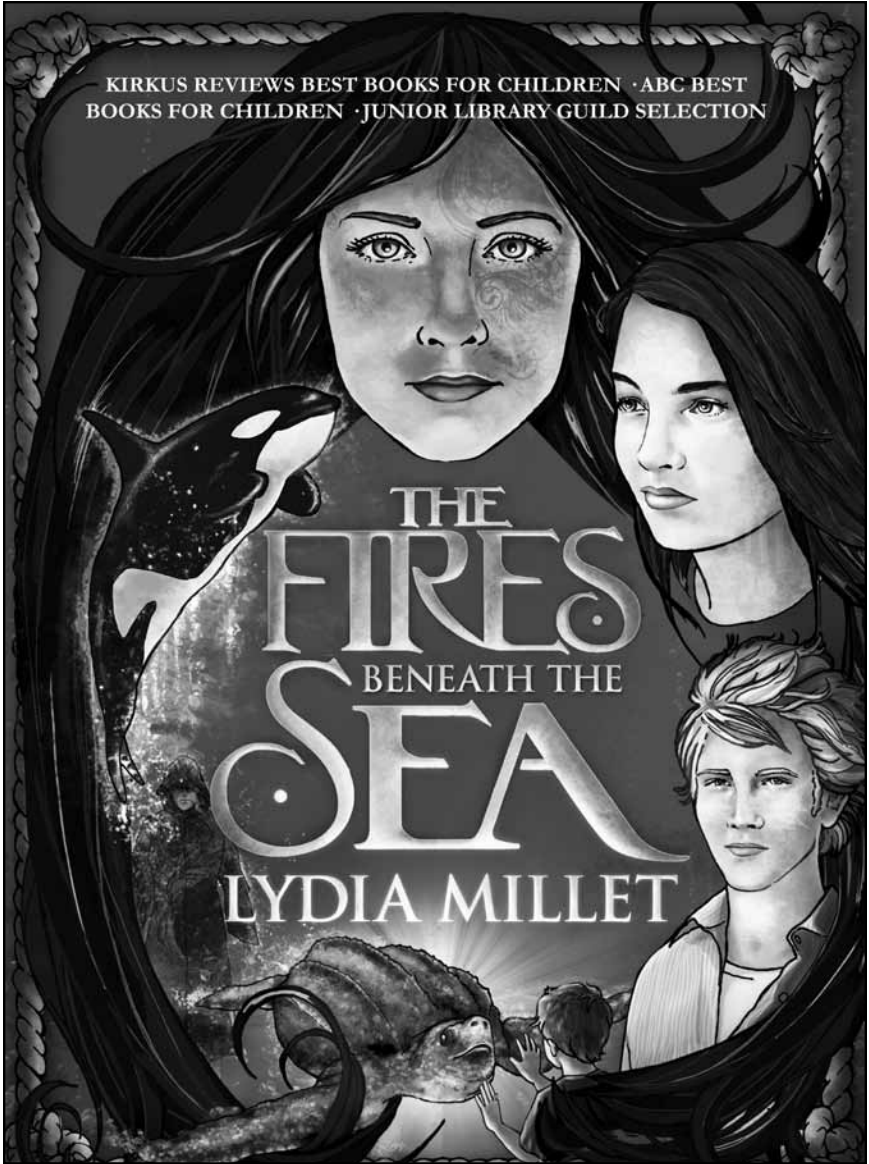
Nancy Kress is the author of thirty books, including four collections of short stories, and three books on writing. Her work has won four Nebulas, two Hugos, a Sturgeon, and the John W. Campbell Award. Kress lives in Seattle with her husband, SF writer Jack Skillingsstead.

April 2012

Fiction/Science Fiction/Short Stories · 9781931520454 · paper · \$16 · 316pp · World
9781931520461 · ebook · \$9.95

Spring 2012 Title

KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN · ABC BEST
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN · JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION



Big Mouth House

Kirkus Reviews Best of 2011 · A Junior Library Guild Selection

- ★ “Millet’s prose is lyrically evocative (“the rhythmic scoop and splash of their paddles”). A lush and intelligent opener for a topical eco-fantasy series.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“The Cape Cod woods, wildlife, and beaches are depicted with loving detail, and the dark forces arrayed against the young protagonists are at once tantalizingly mystifying and alarmingly timely.”—Patricia McKillip

“Lydia Millet knows the sea like a selkie.”

—Kathe Koja, author of *Talk*

Cara’s mother has disappeared and her father isn’t talking. Her brother Max hides behind his iPod and their genius little brother Jackson is busy with the creatures he collects from the beach. But when a watery specter begins to haunt the family’s Cape Cod home, the three Sykes kids realize their scientist mother wasn’t who they thought she was—and that the world has much stranger, much older inhabitants than they had imagined.

With help from Cara’s best friend, Hayley, they embark on a quest that will lead them to a shipwreck and the front lines of an ancient battle between good and evil, with the terrifying “Pouring Man” close on their heels. Packed with memorable characters and thrilling imagery, Lydia Millet weaves a page-turning adventure even as she brings the seaside world of Cape Cod to magical life. The first in a series featuring the Sykes children, *The Fires Beneath the Sea* is a perfect beach read for readers of any age.

Includes a sneak preview of the second book in the Dissenters series, *The Shimmers in the Night*.

Lydia Millet is the author of six previous novels, including *My Happy Life* (PEN-USA Award winner), and *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*, which was shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award. Her short story collection *Love in Infant Monkeys* was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. (lydiamillet.net)

May 2012

Fiction/Fantasy · Middle Grade · 9781931520478 · trade paper · \$12 · 280pp · World
9781931520416 · ebook · \$9.95

Recent Titles

Joan Aiken, *The Monkey's Wedding and Other Stories*

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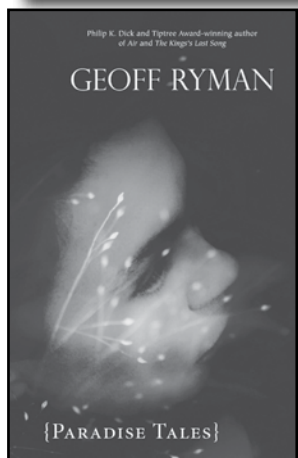
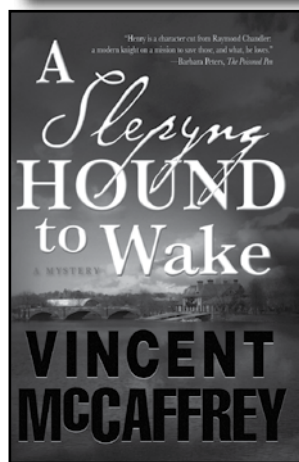
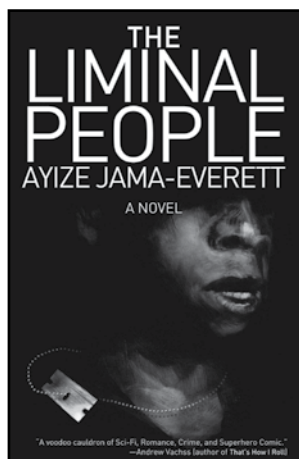
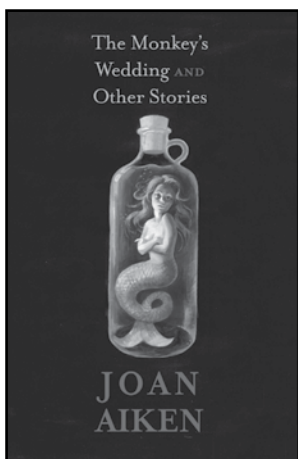
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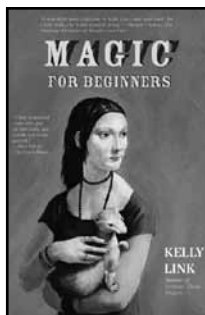
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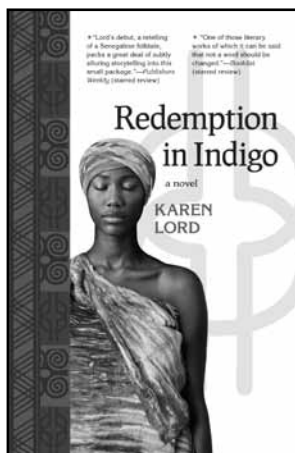
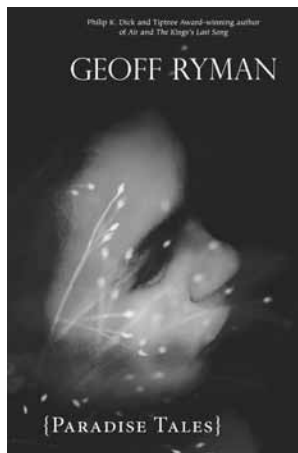
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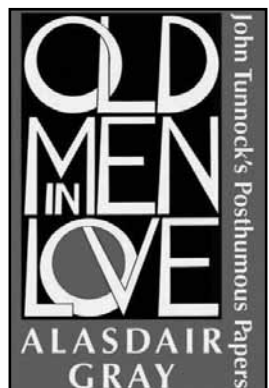
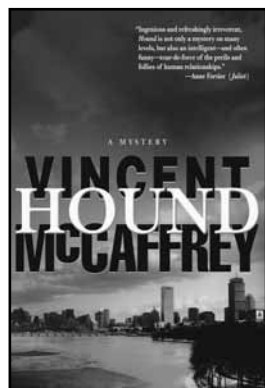
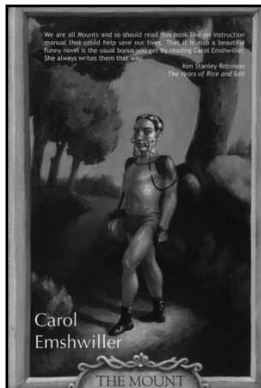
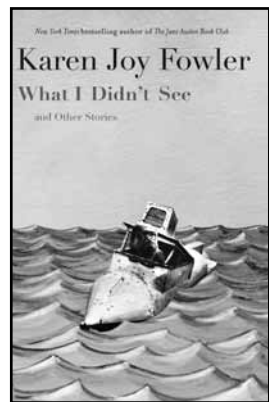
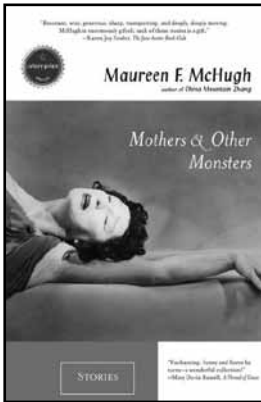
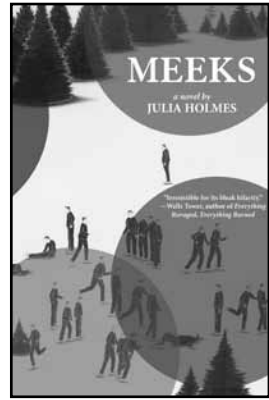
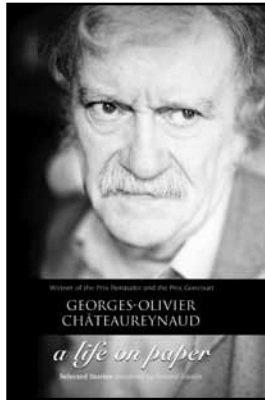
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- Maureen F. McHugh, *After the Apocalypse* · Publishers Weekly Top 10 Books of 2011, Shirley Jackson Award winner. Locus & World Fantasy award finalist, Tiptree Honor List, Story Prize Notable Book. (Sold: Polish, Italian, Slovak; Audio.)
- Delia Sherman, *The Freedom Maze* · Norton, Prometheus, Mythopoeic Award winner. Tiptree Honor List, *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2011. (Sold: Audio.)
- Joan Aiken, “Hair,” from *The Monkey’s Wedding and Other Stories* · Shirley Jackson finalist.
- Geoff Ryman, *Paradise Tales* · Lambda & Sunburst award finalist.
- Karen Lord, *Redemption in Indigo* · Frank Collymore, Crawford, Carl Brandon Parallax, & Mythopoeic Award winner. World Fantasy & Campbell award finalist. (Sold: UK; Audio. **Rights: Cooke Agency International**, cookeinternational.com)
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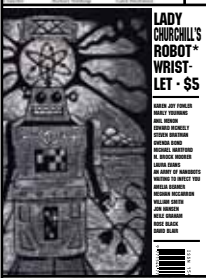
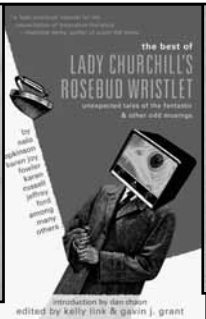


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33

AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER OF BEES

Kij Johnson

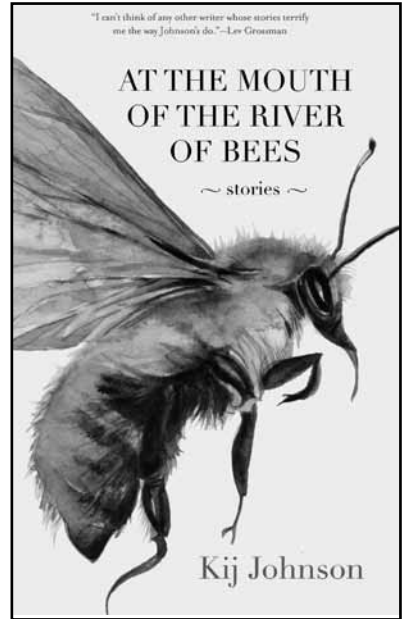
It starts with a bee sting. Linna exclaims at the sudden sharp pain; at her voice, her dog Sam lifts his head where he has settled his aging body on the sidewalk in front of the flower stand.

Sucking at the burning place, Linna looks down at the bouquet in her hand, a messy arrangement of anemone and something loose-jointed with tiny white flowers, dill maybe. The flowers are days or weeks from anywhere that might have bees. But she sees the bee, dead or dying on the pale yellow petal of one of the flowers.

She tips the bouquet to the side. The bee slides from the petal to the ground. Sam leans his dark head over and eats it.

Back in her apartment, she plucks the stinger from her hand with a tweezer. It's clear that she's not going to die of the sting or even swell up much, though there's a white spot that weeps clear fluid and still hurts, still burns. She looks out the windows of her apartment: a gray sky, gray pavement and sidewalks and buildings, trees so dark they might as well be black. The only colors are those on signs and cars.

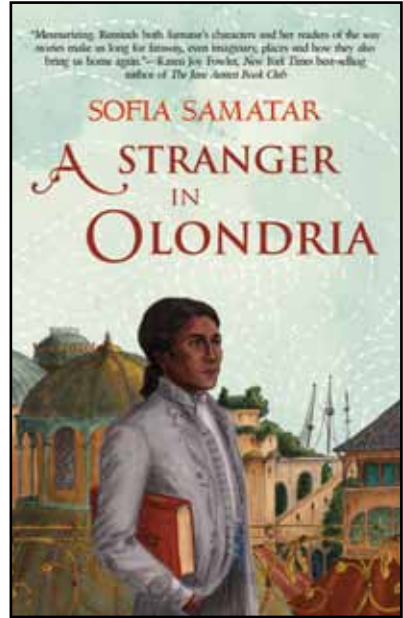
"Let's go, Sam," she says to the German shepherd. "Let's take a road trip. We need a change, don't we?"



A STRANGER IN OLONDRIA

Sofia Samatar

As I was a stranger in Olondria, I knew nothing of the splendor of its coasts, nor of Bain, the Harbor City, whose lights and colors spill into the ocean like a cataract of roses. I did not know the vastness of the spice markets of Bain, where the merchants are delirious with scents, I had never seen the morning mists adrift above the surface of the green Illoun, of which the poets sing; I had never seen a woman with gems in her hair, nor observed the copper glinting of the domes, nor stood upon the melancholy beaches of the south while the wind brought in the sadness from the sea. Deep within the Fayaleith, the Country of the Wines, the clarity of light can stop the heart: it is the light the local people call “the breath of angels” and is said to cure heartsickness and bad lungs. Beyond this is the Balinfeil, where, in the winter months, the people wear caps of white squirrel fur, and in the summer months the goddess Love is said to walk, and the earth is carpeted with almond blossom. But of all this I knew nothing. I knew only of the island where my mother oiled her hair in the glow of a rush candle, and terrified me with stories of the Ghost with No Liver, whose sandals slap when he walks because he has his feet on backwards.



Index by Author

Aiken, Joan	23, 28
Brown, Chris N.	28
Dickinson, Peter	7, 17
Gorodischer, Angélica	19
Hand, Elizabeth	17
Jama-Everett, Ayize	28
Jiménez Mayo, Eduardo	28
Johnson, Kij	5, 34
Koja, Kathe	9
Kress, Nancy	25
Le Guin, Ursula K.	11, 13
Link, Kelly	30
McCaffrey, Vincent	28
Millet, Lydia	3, 17
Ryman, Geoff	28
Samatar, Sofia	21, 35
Sherman, Delia	28

Index by Title

At the Mouth of the River of Bees	5, 34
Death of a Unicorn	17
Earth and Air	7
Errantry	17
Fires Beneath the Sea, The	27
Fountain of Age	25
Freedom Maze, The	28
Liminal People, The	28
Magic for Beginners	30
Monkey's Wedding, The	28
Paradise Tales	28
Serial Garden, The	23
Shimmers in the Night, The	3
Sleepyng Hound to Wake, A	28
Stranger in Olondria, A	21, 35
Stranger Things Happen	30
Three Messages and a Warning	28
Trafalgar	19
Under the Poppy	9
Unreal and the Real, Volume 1	11
Unreal and the Real, Volume 2	13

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“The beat started,
and there was
nothing to do but
dance and sing.”

Maureen F. McHugh
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