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# Not That Bad: Dispatches From Rape Culture

*Weaving the brackish humor of Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club with the empathy of Barbara Ehrenreich's Nickel and Dimed, J. R. Helton brings to life an obscured, all-too-often ignored slice of the American psyche in this unflinching memoir of blue-collar Texas. In the 1980s, somewhere in Austin, Helton was young, married, and jobless. After a few strung-out years trying to make it as a writer, he was caught in a cycle of drunken, coked-up nights, crashing on friends' couches and looking for*

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money in the morning. Succumbing to the daunting reality of what it means to support both himself and a troubled marriage, he became a housepainter. He sold pumpkins on the side of the road, delivered firewood, ran a crew of illegal immigrants hauling railroad ties across the empty plains of Kansas, and then he painted even more. Despair is transformed into resilience as Helton insightfully narrates his wayward years, enduring hateful employers and mind-numbing manual labor. Along the way, the people toiling beneath the saccharine veneer of wealth that was the Reagan years are brought to vivid life: the ambitious and the lazy, the potheads and the racists, as well

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*as Vietnam vets too shaken to hold a paintbrush and deadbeat fathers straining to pay child support. With intoxicating, blasé-faire sentiment, Helton shows that everyone—from the beauties at the rodeo to the lowest laborers—is tethered by a common desire to just pay the bills and balm the loneliness. A raw and moving account, *Bad Jobs and Poor Decisions* captures a microcosm of left-behind America that straddles a dangerous line between ruin and redemption.*

*Fiction. LGBTQIA Studies. The last Midwestern traveling circus is due to arrive in a rural village it has visited for a century of summers. Like the village, the circus is on its last leg. It's down*

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*to one elephant and a handful of acrobats. The circus boss's sweetheart is dying. The former starring act is recovering from cancer. The assistant, Frank, plans to retire after this show. Meanwhile, twins Heza and Abe wander the hot fields and roads, waiting for the circus or anything better. HEZADA! I MISS YOU is a novel that explores tradition, love, and suicide--set under the fading tents of small-town America and the circus.*

*“Gabourey Sidibe’s delightful memoir offers a memorable look into what happens when a black girl’s dreams come true, from the inside out. Sidibe is fearless, incredibly funny, and gorgeously open. What she offers of herself in these pages is a gift.”—Roxane*

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*Gay In This Is Just My Face, Gabourey Sidibe—the “gives-zero-effs queen of Hollywood AND perceptive best friend in your head” (Lena Dunham)—paints her unconventional rise to fame with full-throttle honesty. Sidibe tells engrossing, inspiring stories about her Bed-Stuy/Harlem/Senegalese family life with a polygamous father and a gifted mother who supports her two children by singing in the subway, her first job as a phone sex “talker,” and her Oscar-nominated role in Lee Daniels’s Precious. Sidibe’s memoir hits hard with self-knowing dispatches on friendship, celebrity, weight, haters, fashion, race, and depression (“Sidibe’s heartfelt exploration of insecurity*

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*... makes us love her" —O Magazine). Irreverent, hilarious, and untraditional, This Is Just My Face will resonate with anyone who has ever felt different, and with anyone who has ever felt inspired to make a dream come true. "This memoir [is] a book you will want to give your daughter." —New York Times "Sidibe's hilarious Twitter account is no fluke—the Empire actress's memoir about growing up in New York City and finding unexpected fame in Hollywood is sharp, witty, and wonderfully substantive." —Entertainment Weekly*

*Edited and with an introduction by Roxane Gay, the New York Times bestselling and deeply beloved author of Bad Feminist*

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*and Hunger, this anthology of first-person essays tackles rape, assault, and harassment head-on. Vogue, 10 of the Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2018 Harper's Bazaar, 10 New Books to Add to Your Reading List in 2018 Elle, 21 Books We're Most Excited to Read in 2018 Boston Globe, 25 books we can't wait to read in 2018 Huffington Post, 60 Books We Can't Wait to Read in 2018 BuzzFeed, 33 Most Exciting New Books of 2018 In this valuable and timely anthology, cultural critic and bestselling author Roxane Gay collects original and previously published pieces that address what it means to live in a world where women have to measure the harassment, violence and*

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*aggression they face, and where sexual-abuse survivors are 'routinely second-guessed, blown off, discredited, denigrated, besmirched, belittled, patronized, mocked, shamed, gaslit, insulted, bullied' for speaking out. Highlighting the stories of well-known actors, writers and experts, as well as new voices being published for the first time, Not That Bad covers a wide range of topics and experiences, from an exploration of the rape epidemic embedded in the refugee crisis to first-person accounts of child molestation and street harrassment. Often deeply personal and always unflinchingly honest, this provocative collection both reflects the world we live in and*



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*offers a call to arms insisting that 'not that bad' must no longer be good enough.*

*From one of America's leading reporters comes a deeply personal, extraordinarily powerful look at the most volatile crises he has witnessed around the world, from New Orleans to Baghdad and beyond. Dispatches from the Edge of the World is a book that gives us a rare up-close glimpse of what happens when the normal order of things is suddenly turned upside down, whether it's a natural disaster, a civil war, or a heated political battle. Over the last year, few people have witnessed more scenes of chaos and conflict than Anderson Cooper, whose groundbreaking coverage on*

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*CNN has become the touchstone of twenty-first century journalism. This book explores in a very personal way the most important - and most dangerous - crises of our time, and the surprising impact they have had on his life. From the devastating tsunami in South Asia to the suffering Niger, and ultimately Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Cooper shares his own experiences of traversing the globe, covering the world's most astonishing stories. As a television journalist, he has the gift of speaking with an emotional directness that cuts through the barriers of the medium. In his first book, that passion communicates itself through a rich fabric of memoir*

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*and reportage, reflection and first-person narrative.*

*Unflinching and utterly engrossing, this is the story of an extraordinary year in a reporter's life.*

*These poems take a closer look at violence against women, both physical and psychological.*

*Follow the intersection of fear, identity, and the malleability of the speaker's own experiences of violence enacted on her by men, particularly a past partner.*

*Imagistic and evocative, the poems ask how are we conditioned into living with violence, and how do we move forward?*

*Joanna Bourke takes the issue of rape out of the academic ghettos and distills the truth so often*

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*exploited to sell newspapers. Neither prurient nor overly sympathetic toward any party, she investigates rape from a historical standpoint, examining the history of sexual aggression, the idea of rape as a social construct, and the often-ignored idea of embodiment, and analyzes the physical response of rapists as well as the theory that rape is "about" power. Indebted to a growing body of sophisticated feminist analyses about rape victims, Bourke here shifts the emphasis from the victims to the perpetrators in order to place rapists in their historical context. An invaluable study, this book delivers the hard truth that if we are to imagine a world free of unwanted sexual*

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*violence, then we must consider the issue of rape from every angle.*

*Edited and with an introduction by Roxane Gay, the New York Times bestselling and deeply beloved author of Bad Feminist and Hunger, this anthology of first-person essays tackles rape, assault, and harassment head-on. "Roxane Gay is the brilliant girl-next-door: your best friend and your sharpest critic. . . . she is also required reading."—People*

*In this valuable and revealing anthology, cultural critic and bestselling author Roxane Gay collects original and previously published pieces that address what it means to live in a world where women have to measure the harassment, violence, and*

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*aggression they face, and where they are “routinely second-guessed, blown off, discredited, denigrated, besmirched, belittled, patronized, mocked, shamed, gaslit, insulted, bullied” for speaking out. Contributions include essays from established and up-and-coming writers, performers, and critics, including actors Ally Sheedy and Gabrielle Union and writers Amy Jo Burns, Lyz Lenz, and Claire Schwartz. Covering a wide range of topics and experiences, from an exploration of the rape epidemic embedded in the refugee crisis to first-person accounts of child molestation, this collection is often deeply personal and is always unflinchingly honest. Like Rebecca Solnit’s Men Explain*

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*Things to Me, Not That Bad will resonate with every reader, saying “something in totality that we cannot say alone.” Searing and heartbreakingly candid, this provocative collection both reflects the world we live in and offers a call to arms insisting that “not that bad” must no longer be good enough.*

[\*The Best American Mystery Stories 2014\*](#)

[\*Bad Jobs and Poor Decisions: Dispatches from the Working Class\*](#)

[\*Hot with the Bad Things Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World\*](#)

[\*Dispatches from the Border\*](#)

[\*Histories of Places Not Yet Forgotten\*](#)

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Culture  
A Memoir

The Best American Short Stories  
2012

Dispatches

Dispatches from rape culture

The Impact of the Convention on  
the Elimination of All Forms of  
Discrimination against Women on  
the Domestic Legislation in Egypt

*In this valuable and revealing  
anthology, cultural critic and  
bestselling author Roxane Gay  
collects original and previously  
published pieces that address what  
it means to live in a world where  
women have to measure the  
harassment, violence, and  
aggression they face, and where  
they are "routinely second-guessed,  
blown off, discredited, denigrated,*



*besmirched, belittled, patronized, mocked, shamed, gaslit, insulted, bullied" for speaking out.*

*Contributions include essays from established and up-and-coming writers, performers, and critics, including actors Ally Sheedy and Gabrielle Union and writers Amy Jo Burns, Lyz Lenz, Claire Schwartz, and Bob Shacochis.*

*Covering a wide range of topics and experiences, from an exploration of the rape epidemic embedded in the refugee crisis to first-person accounts of child molestation, this collection is often deeply personal and is always unflinchingly honest. Like Clementine Ford's Fight Like a*

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*Girl and Rebecca Solnit's Men Explain Things to Me, Not That Bad will resonate with every reader, saying "something in totality that we cannot say alone." Searing and heartbreakingly candid, this provocative collection both reflects the world we live in and offers a call to arms insisting that "not that bad" must no longer be good enough.*

*NAMED A TOP 10 BOOK OF 2018 BY NPR and THE WASHINGTON POST SHORTLISTED FOR THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE The instant New York Times bestseller, "A must-read for anyone who thinks*

*'build a wall' is the answer to anything." --Esquire For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an*

*immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line.*

*New Yorkers Grant and his girlfriend Mariah decided on a whim to buy an old plantation house in the Mississippi Delta. This is their journey of discovery to a remote, isolated strip of land, three miles beyond the tiny community of Pluto. They learn to hunt, grow their own food, and fend off alligators, snakes, and varmints galore. They befriend an array of unforgettable local characters,*

*capture the rich, extraordinary culture of the Delta, and delve deeply into the Delta's lingering racial tensions. As the nomadic Grant learns to settle down, he falls not just for his girlfriend but for the beguiling place they now call home.*

*When Luke O'Neil isn't angry, he's asleep. When he's awake, he gives vent to some of the most heartfelt, political and anger-fueled prose to power its way to the public sphere since Hunter S. Thompson smashed a typewriter's keys.*

*Welcome to Hell World is an unexpurgated selection of Luke O'Neil's finest rants, near-poetic rhapsodies, and investigatory*

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*journalism. Racism, sexism, immigration, unemployment, Marcus Aurelius, opioid addiction, Iraq: all are processed through the O'Neil grinder. He details failings in his own life and in those he observes around him: and the result is a book that is at once intensely confessional and an energetic, unforgettable condemnation of American mores. Welcome to Hell World is, in the author's words, a "fever dream nightmare of reporting and personal essays from one of the lowest periods in our country in recent memory." It is also a burning example of some of the best writing you're likely to read*

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*anywhere.*

*A kaleidoscopic, fast-paced tour of Latin America from one of the Spanish-speaking world's most outstanding writers. Lamenting not having more time to get to know each of the nineteen countries he visits after winning the prestigious Premio Alfaguara, Andrés Neuman begins to suspect that world travel consists mostly of "not seeing." But then he realizes that the fleeting nature of his trip provides him with a unique opportunity: touring and comparing every country of Latin America in a single stroke. Neuman writes on the move, generating a kinetic work that is at once puckish and poetic, aphoristic*

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*and brimming with curiosity. Even so-called non-places—airports, hotels, taxis—are turned into powerful symbols full of meaning. A dual Argentine-Spanish citizen, he incisively explores cultural identity and nationality, immigration and globalization, history and language, and turbulent current events. Above all, Neuman investigates the artistic lifeblood of Latin America, tackling with gusto not only literary heavyweights such as Bolaño, Vargas Llosa, Lorca, and Galeano, but also an emerging generation of authors and filmmakers whose impact is now making ripples worldwide. Eye-opening and*



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*charmingly offbeat, How to Travel without Seeing: Dispatches from the New Latin America is essential reading for anyone interested in the past, present, and future of the Americas.*

*"The best book to have been written about the Vietnam War" (The New York Times Book Review); an instant classic straight from the front lines. From its terrifying opening pages to its final eloquent words, Dispatches makes us see, in unforgettable and unflinching detail, the chaos and fervor of the war and the surreal insanity of life in that singular combat zone. Michael Herr's unsparing, unorthodox retellings of*

*the day-to-day events in Vietnam take on the force of poetry, rendering clarity from one of the most incomprehensible and nightmarish events of our time.*

*Dispatches is among the most blistering and compassionate accounts of war in our literature.*

*A collection of top-selected mystery writing from the past year is culled from a variety of respected sources and offers insight into evolving genre trends.*

*COVID-19 is speeding up history, but how? What is the shape of the world to come? Lenin once said, "There are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen." This is one of those times*

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*when history has sped up. CNN host and best-selling author Fareed Zakaria helps readers to understand the nature of a post-pandemic world: the political, social, technological, and economic consequences that may take years to unfold. Written in the form of ten "lessons," covering topics from natural and biological risks to the rise of "digital life" to an emerging bipolar world order, Zakaria helps readers to begin thinking beyond the immediate effects of COVID-19. Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World speaks to past, present, and future, and, while urgent and timely, is sure to become an enduring reflection on*

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*life in the early twenty-first century.*

[\*ATTENTION\*](#)

[\*Unti on Writing\*](#)

[\*Dispatches from Dystopia\*](#)

[\*Bad Feminist\*](#)

[\*Welcome to Hell World\*](#)

[\*Sacrifice of Darkness\*](#)

[\*Lilli de Jong\*](#)

[\*Difficult Women\*](#)

[\*Hunger\*](#)

[\*The View from Flyover Country\*](#)

[\*A Memoir of \(My\) Body\*](#)

[\*Dispatches from Pluto\*](#)

Roxane Gay, the prominent cultural influencer, novelist, and New York Times bestselling author of *Hunger* and *Bad Feminist*, provides the tools necessary for everyone who wants to make their voices heard. Roxane Gay receives numerous requests from fans

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looking for encouragement: “Will you please read my work and tell me if I have the talent to pursue writing?” What these aspiring writers seek is validation in a culture that is eager to reject creativity and those who pursue it, especially artists from underrepresented communities. These fans are desperate for someone to say, “Yes, you are good enough.” They are looking for permission to use their voice. In this invaluable guide, Gay provides realistic, frank, and sometimes humorous advice for inexperienced writers and those who aspire to the writing life. From the beginning she makes clear that anyone can be a writer—so long as you actually write. She also offers insight on what’s really required to succeed at virtually every endeavor: creativity, ambition, and perseverance.

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Gay covers a range of topics to help you define the kind of writing life you want, making clear that writing is an art—but it's also a profession. She gives you the inspiration and practical tools you need to find your voice, use it, and be heard. If your dream is to become a published author, Gay walks you through the publishing process, letting you know what to expect.

New York Times Bestseller NPR Best Book of 2016 “Sharp and prescient... The appeal of Valenti’s memoir lies in her ability to trace objectification through her own life, and to trace what was for a long time her own obliviousness to it... Sex Object is an antidote to the fun and flirty feminism of selfies and self-help.” — New Republic Author and Guardian US columnist Jessica Valenti has been leading the national conversation on

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gender and politics for over a decade. Now, in a darkly funny and bracing memoir, Valenti explores the toll that sexism takes from the every day to the existential. Sex Object explores the painful, funny, embarrassing, and sometimes illegal moments that shaped Valenti's adolescence and young adulthood in New York City, revealing a much shakier inner life than the confident persona she has cultivated as one of the most recognizable feminists of her generation. In the tradition of writers like Joan Didion and Mary Karr, this literary memoir is sure to shock those already familiar with Valenti's work and enthrall those who are just finding it. Dominique Strauss-Kahn's arrest. Congressman Todd Akin's "legitimate" gaffe. The alleged rape crew of Steubenville, Ohio. Sexual violence

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has been so prominent in recent years that the feminist term “rape culture” has finally entered the mainstream. But what, exactly, is it? And how do we change it? In *Asking for It*, Kate Harding answers those questions in the same blunt, bullshit-free voice that's made her a powerhouse feminist blogger. Combining in-depth research with practical knowledge, *Asking for It* makes the case that twenty-first century America—where it's estimated that out of every 100 rapes only 5 result in felony convictions—supports rapists more effectively than victims. Harding offers ideas and suggestions for addressing how we as a culture can take rape much more seriously without compromising the rights of the accused.

A collection of writers, poets, artists, social entrepreneurs and political



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activists in the Global International African Arts Movement speak about their work in the context of Trump, giving a voice to the voiceless and about the 5th estate of power in this timely and important book. Scheduled for release at the top of the 2020 US Presidential election, *Dispatches from the Vanguard* channels the global soul's hunger for freedom from authoritarian control. Partnering with dozens of Pulitzer Prize Winners, New York Times Best Sellers, poet laureates, TED speakers, and influencers within the Global International African Arts Movement, including Ishmael Reed, Tyehimba Jess, Rich Fresh, Nikki Giovanni, Nnedi Okorafor, Chester Higgins, Tori Reid and Jaki Shelton Green, *Dispatches* offers a poignant, high-frequency rebuke of Donald J. Trump

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(actual man, strawman and metaphor for white privilege and capitalist despotism) and his ruthless amoral presidency. As we approach a key moment in the recent history of American politics, *Dispatches from the Vanguard* is a timely intervention, showing us how we can challenge the impact and influence of politics when it is solely a means of authoritarian control.

AN AMC ORIGINAL SERIES FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARTI NOXON, STARRING JOY NASH AND JULIANNA MARGULIES A Best Book of the Year Entertainment Weekly • Bustle • Amazon • Women's National Book Association • Kirkus Reviews • BookPage • Kobo • LitReactor  
"Audacious and gutsy and heartbreaking — *Dietland* completely blew me away." — Jennifer Weiner

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The diet revolution is here. And it's armed. Plum Kettle does her best not to be noticed, because when you're fat, to be noticed is to be judged. With her job answering fan mail for a teen magazine, she is biding her time until her weight-loss surgery. But when a mysterious woman in colorful tights and combat boots begins following her, Plum falls down a rabbit hole into the world of Calliope House — an underground community of women who reject society's rules — and is forced to confront the real costs of becoming “beautiful.” At the same time, a guerilla group begins terrorizing a world that mistreats women, and Plum becomes entangled in a sinister plot. The consequences are explosive. “A giddy revenge fantasy that will shake up your thinking and burrow under your skin”

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(Entertainment Weekly), Dietland takes on the beauty industry, gender inequality, and our weight-loss obsession — with fists flying.

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Bad Feminist*: a searingly honest memoir of food, weight, self-image, and learning how to feed your hunger while taking care of yourself. “I ate and ate and ate in the hopes that if I made myself big, my body would be safe. I buried the girl I was because she ran into all kinds of trouble. I tried to erase every memory of her, but she is still there, somewhere. . . . I was trapped in my body, one that I barely recognized or understood, but at least I was safe.” In her phenomenally popular essays and long-running Tumblr blog, Roxane Gay has written with intimacy and sensitivity about food and body, using her own

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emotional and psychological struggles as a means of exploring our shared anxieties over pleasure, consumption, appearance, and health. As a woman who describes her own body as “wildly undisciplined,” Roxane understands the tension between desire and denial, between self-comfort and self-care. In *Hunger*, she explores her past—including the devastating act of violence that acted as a turning point in her young life—and brings readers along on her journey to understand and ultimately save herself. With the bracing candor, vulnerability, and power that have made her one of the most admired writers of her generation, Roxane explores what it means to learn to take care of yourself: how to feed your hungers for delicious and satisfying food, a smaller and safer body, and a body that can

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love and be loved—in a time when the bigger you are, the smaller your world becomes.

“Attention reveals a fresh, vital literary voice as it covers seemingly every imaginable topic relating to modern life.”—Entertainment Weekly “Joshua Cohen may be America’s greatest living writer.”—The Washington Post  
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY WIRED One of Granta’s Best of Young American Novelists, Joshua Cohen arrives with his first collection of nonfiction, the culmination of two decades of writing and thought about life in the digital age. In essays, memoir, criticism, diary entries, and letters—many appearing here for the first time—Cohen covers the full depth and breadth of modern life: politics, literature, art, music, travel, the media, and psychology, and

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subjects as diverse as Google, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, fictional animals, Gustav Mahler, Aretha Franklin, John Zorn, landscape photography, fake Caravaggios, Wikipedia, Gertrude Stein, Edward Snowden, Jonathan Franzen, Olympic women's fencing, Atlantic City casinos, the closing of the Ringling Bros. circus, and Azerbaijan. Throughout ATTENTION, Cohen directs his sharp gaze at home and abroad, calling upon his extraordinary erudition and unrivaled ability to draw connections between seemingly unlike things to show us how to live without fear in a world overflowing with information. In each piece, he projects a quality of thought that is uniquely his, and a voice as witty, profound, and distinct as any in American letters. At this crucial juncture in history, ATTENTION

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is a guide for the perplexed—a handbook for anyone hoping to bring the wisdom of the past into the culture of the future. Praise for ATTENTION “Dazzling in its scope . . . If curiosity is a writer’s greatest innate gift, Joshua Cohen may be America’s greatest living writer.”—The Washington Post “Cause for celebration and close study . . . [Cohen] will hunt after neglected shards of the past, minor histories, and charge them with an immediacy in the present. . . . He is experimenting with the essay form much more, and more cleverly, than any major American writer today.”—The Wall Street Journal “In Attention, Joshua Cohen makes an eclectic argument for how to improve our lives. . . . [He] tackles a surprising range of subjects to underline distraction’s role in our fraught predicament and to argue that paying



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attention could help us get out of it. . . .

When it comes to making sense of our times with verve and imagination, few authors are more

rewarding.”—Financial Times

Award-winning author and

powerhouse talent Roxane Gay burst onto the scene with *An Untamed State*

and the New York Times bestselling

essay collection *Bad Feminist* (Harper

Perennial). Gay returns with *Difficult*

*Women*, a collection of stories of rare

force and beauty, of hardscrabble

lives, passionate loves, and quirky and

vexed human connection. The women

in these stories live lives of privilege

and of poverty, are in marriages both

loving and haunted by past crimes or

emotional blackmail. A pair of sisters,

grown now, have been inseparable

ever since they were abducted

together as children, and must

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negotiate the elder sister's marriage. A woman married to a twin pretends not to realize when her husband and his brother impersonate each other. A stripper putting herself through college fends off the advances of an overzealous customer. A black engineer moves to Upper Michigan for a job and faces the malign curiosity of her colleagues and the difficulty of leaving her past behind. From a girls' fight club to a wealthy subdivision in Florida where neighbors conform, compete, and spy on each other, Gay delivers a wry, beautiful, haunting vision of modern America reminiscent of Merritt Tierce, Jamie Quatro, and Miranda July.

[Dispatches from the American](#)

[Dystopia](#)

[A Novel](#)

[A Food Adventurer's Guide](#)

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**WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY**

**HERMIONE LEE** The previously

uncollected occasional prose of a

great English writer – full of wit,

feeling and illumination.

The bestselling author of *Bad*

*Feminist* explores the urgent concept

of being heard—brave, practical, and

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inspiring wisdom for anyone pursuing a creative life. Over the past few years, Roxane Gay has become crucial to our cultural conversation on a wide range of issues: feminism, literature, police brutality, television, modern marriage, campus safety. No matter the topic, her voice is clear, powerful, and always honest. The Guardian said it perfectly: “In print, on Twitter, and in person, Gay has the voice of the friend you call first for advice, calm and sane as well as funny, someone who has seen a lot and takes no prisoners.” In her vital, important *How to Be Heard*, Gay reveals how to use your voice so people will listen. After delving deep into the writing life, Gay looks more

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**broadly at what is really required to succeed at most any endeavor—creativity, ambition, and perseverance. She describes how to deal with rejection, what success is really all about, and why hard work is the mainstay of creativity. Woven throughout this advice is her personal and practical anecdotes on the concept of using your voice, being heard, and knowing when to listen—what these things mean, why they are so difficult, and why learning how and when to use your voice is so crucial. Beautiful, accessible, and warm, ultimately Gay’s timely message is about finding a voice that is uniquely yours, and discovering how to be heard when it truly matters most.**

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**Edited and with an introduction by Roxane Gay, the New York Times bestselling and deeply beloved author of *Bad Feminist* and *Hunger*, this anthology of first-person essays tackles rape, assault, and harassment head-on. “Roxane Gay is the brilliant girl-next-door: your best friend and your sharpest critic. . . . she is also required reading.”—People**

**In this valuable and revealing anthology, cultural critic and bestselling author Roxane Gay collects original and previously published pieces that address what it means to live in a world where women have to measure the harassment, violence, and aggression they face, and where they are “routinely second-guessed, blown off,**

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discredited, denigrated, besmirched, belittled, patronized, mocked, shamed, gaslit, insulted, bullied” for speaking out. Contributions include essays from established and up-and-coming writers, performers, and critics, including actors Ally Sheedy and Gabrielle Union and writers Amy Jo Burns, Lyz Lenz, Claire Schwartz, and Bob Shacochis. Covering a wide range of topics and experiences, from an exploration of the rape epidemic embedded in the refugee crisis to first-person accounts of child molestation, this collection is often deeply personal and is always unflinchingly honest. Like Rebecca Solnit’s *Men Explain Things to Me*, *Not That Bad* will resonate with every reader, saying

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**“something in totality that we cannot say alone.”** Searing and heartbreakingly candid, this provocative collection both reflects the world we live in and offers a call to arms insisting that “not that bad” must no longer be good enough.

**New York Times Bestseller** A collection of essays spanning politics, criticism, and feminism from one of the most-watched young cultural observers of her generation, Roxane Gay. **“Pink is my favorite color. I used to say my favorite color was black to be cool, but it is pink—all shades of pink. If I have an accessory, it is probably pink. I read Vogue, and I’m not doing it ironically, though it might seem that way. I once live-tweeted the**



September issue.” In these funny and insightful essays, Roxane Gay takes us through the journey of her evolution as a woman (Sweet Valley High) of color (The Help) while also taking readers on a ride through culture of the last few years (Girls, Django in Chains) and commenting on the state of feminism today (abortion, Chris Brown). The portrait that emerges is not only one of an incredibly insightful woman continually growing to understand herself and our society, but also one of our culture. *Bad Feminist* is a sharp, funny, and spot-on look at the ways in which the culture we consume becomes who we are, and an inspiring call-to-arms of all the ways we still need to do better.

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**From New York Times -bestselling powerhouse Roxane Gay, *Ayiti* is a powerful collection exploring the Haitian diaspora experience.**

**Originally published by a small press, this Grove Press paperback will make Gay's debut widely available for the first time, including several new stories. In *Ayiti*, a married couple seeking boat passage to America prepares to leave their homeland. A young woman procures a voodoo love potion to ensnare a childhood classmate. A mother takes a foreign soldier into her home as a boarder, and into her bed. And a woman conceives a daughter on the bank of a river while fleeing a horrific massacre, a daughter who later moves to America for a new life**

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but is perpetually haunted by the mysterious scent of blood. These early stories showcase Gay's prowess as one of the voices of our age" (National Post, Canada).

A short heroic novel by Ernest Hemingway is a story that centers on an aging fisherman who engages in an epic battle to catch a giant marlin. It was published in 1952 and awarded the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Author: Ernest Hemingway  
Genre: Novel

From acclaimed poet and creator of the popular twitter account @SoSadToday comes the darkly funny and brutally honest collection of essays that Roxane Gay called "sad and uncomfortable and their own kind of gorgeous." Melissa

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**Broder always struggled with anxiety. In the fall of 2012, she went through a harrowing cycle of panic attacks and dread that wouldn't abate for months. So she began @sosadtoday, an anonymous Twitter feed that allowed her to express her darkest feelings, and which quickly gained a dedicated following. In SO SAD TODAY, Broder delves deeper into the existential themes she explores on Twitter, grappling with sex, death, love low self-esteem, addiction, and the drama of waiting for the universe to text you back. With insights as sharp as her humor, Broder explores--in prose that is both ballsy and beautiful, aggressively colloquial and achingly poetic--questions most of us are**

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**afraid to even acknowledge, let alone answer, in order to discover what it really means to be a person in this modern world.**

**NEW YORK TIMES and MIBA  
BESTSELLER From the St.**

**Louis-based journalist often credited with first predicting Donald Trump's presidential victory. "A collection of sharp-edged, humanistic pieces about the American heartland...Passionate pieces that repeatedly assail the inability of many to empathize and to humanize." — Kirkus In 2015, Sarah Kendzior collected the essays she reported for Al Jazeera and published them as The View from Flyover Country, which became an ebook bestseller and garnered praise**

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from readers around the world. Now, *The View from Flyover Country* is being released in print with an updated introduction and epilogue that reflect on the ways that the Trump presidency was the certain result of the realities first captured in Kendzior's essays. A clear-eyed account of the realities of life in America's overlooked heartland, *The View from Flyover Country* is a piercing critique of the labor exploitation, race relations, gentrification, media bias, and other aspects of the post-employment economy that gave rise to a president who rules like an autocrat. *The View from Flyover Country* is necessary reading for anyone who believes that the only way for America to fix its

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problems is to first discuss them with honesty and compassion. “Please put everything aside and try to get ahold of Sarah Kendzior’s collected essays, *The View from Flyover Country*. I have rarely come across writing that is as urgent and beautifully expressed. What makes Kendzior’s writing so truly important is [that] it . . . documents where the problem lies, by somebody who lives there.”—*The Wire* “Sarah Kendzior is as harsh and tenacious a critic of the Trump administration as you’ll find. She isn’t some new kid on the political block or a controversy machine. . . . Rather she is a widely published journalist and anthropologist who has spent much of her life studying

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**authoritarianism.” —Columbia  
Tribune**

**[The Alarming Rise of Rape  
Culture--and What We Can Do  
about It](#)**

**[Personal Essays](#)**

**[The Old Man and The Sea](#)**

**[So Sad Today](#)**

**[Try Not to Stare](#)**

**[Not That Bad](#)**

**[Ayiti](#)**

**[This Is Just My Face](#)**

**[Dietland](#)**

**[Dispatches from the Edge](#)**

**[Dispatches from Rape Culture](#)**

**[Rape](#)**

It's time to rethink rape.

Centuries of different  
approaches to rape - as inflicted  
by men on women - have got us



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nowhere. Rape statistics remain intractable: one woman in five will experience sexual violence. Very few rapes find their way into court. The crucial issue is consent, thought by some to be easy to establish and by others impossible. Sexual assault does not diminish; relations between the sexes do not improve; litigation balloons. In *ON RAPE* Germaine Greer argues there has to be a better way.

“ A powerful, authentic voice for a generation of women whose struggles were erased from history—a heart-smashing debut that completely satisfies. ”

—Jamie Ford, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel on*

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the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

A young woman finds the most powerful love of her life when she gives birth at an institution for unwed mothers in 1883

Philadelphia. She is told she must give up her daughter to avoid lifelong poverty and shame. But she chooses to keep her. Pregnant, left behind by her lover, and banished from her Quaker home and teaching position, Lilli de Jong enters a home for wronged women to deliver her child. She is stunned at how much her infant needs her and at how quickly their bond overtakes her heart.

Mothers in her position face disabling prejudice, which is

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why most give up their newborns. But Lilli can't accept such an outcome. Instead, she braves moral condemnation and financial ruin in a quest to keep herself and her baby alive. Confiding their story to her diary as it unfolds, Lilli takes readers from an impoverished charity to a wealthy family's home to the streets of a burgeoning American city. Drawing on rich history, Lilli de Jong is both an intimate portrait of loves lost and found and a testament to the work of mothers. "So little is permissible for a woman," writes Lilli, "yet on her back every human climbs to

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adulthood. ”

Taste the World! It ’ s truly a feast of wonder: Created by the ever-curious minds behind Atlas Obscura, this breathtaking guide transforms our sense of what people around the world eat and drink. Covering all seven continents, Gastro Obscura serves up a loaded plate of incredible ingredients, food adventures, and edible wonders. Ready for a beer made from fog in Chile? Sardinia ’ s “ Threads of God ” pasta? Egypt ’ s 2000-year-old egg ovens? But far more than a menu of curious minds delicacies and unexpected dishes, Gastro Obscura reveals food ’ s central place in our lives

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as well as our bellies, touching on history – trace the network of ancient Roman fish sauce factories. Culture – picture four million women gathering to make rice pudding. Travel – scale China ’ s sacred Mount Hua to reach a tea house.

Festivals – feed wild macaques pyramid of fruit at Thailand ’ s Monkey Buffet Festival. And hidden gems that might be right around the corner, like the vending machine in Texas dispensing full sized pecan pies. Dig in and feed your sense of wonder. “ Like a great tapas meal, Gastro Obscura is deep yet snackable, and full of surprises. This is the book for

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anyone interested in eating, adventure and the human condition. ” – Tom Colicchio, chef and activist “ This exquisite guide kept me at the breakfast table until dinner time. ” – Kyle Maclachlan, actor and vintner Presents twenty of the best works of short fiction of the past year from a variety of acclaimed sources.

New York Times bestselling author Roxane Gay (World of Wakanda, Difficult Women) adapts her short story “ We Are the Sacrifice of Darkness ” as a full-length graphic novel with writer Tracy Lynne Oliver (This Weekend), and artist Rebecca Kirby (Biopsy.)

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Expanding an unforgettable world where a tragic event forever bathes the world in darkness, *The Sacrifice of Darkness* follows one woman's powerful journey through this new landscape as she discovers love, family, and the true light in a world seemingly robbed of any. This young adult drama challenges notions of identity, guilt, and survival in a graphic novel for fans of *On A Sunbeam* and *Are You Listening?*

The book offers an account of Egypt's legislative achievements and shortcomings in light of its international obligation to eliminate gender discrimination resulting from

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the Women ' s Convention and proposes de jure and de facto reforms to improve Egypt ' s implementation efforts.

A sequel of sorts to the classic (and bestselling) sendup of literary criticism, *The Pooh Perplex* Thirty-seven years ago, a slim parody of academic literary criticism called *The Pooh Perplex* became a surprise bestseller. Now Frederick Crews has written a hilarious new satire in the same vein. Purporting to be the proceedings of a forum on Pooh convened at the Modern Language Association's annual convention, *Postmodern Pooh* brilliantly parodies the academic



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fads and figures that hold sway at the millennium.

Deconstruction, poststructuralist Marxism, new historicism, radical feminism, cultural studies, recovered-memory theory, and postcolonialism, among other methods, take their shots at the poor teddy bear and Crews takes his shots at them. The fun lies in seeing just how much adulteration Pooh can stand.

“ Why are Kazakhstan and Montana the same place? ” asks one chapter of Kate Brown ’ s surprising and unusual journey into the histories of places on the margins, overlooked or erased. It turns out that a ruined

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mining town in Kazakhstan and Butte, Montana—America's largest environmental Superfund site—have much more in common than one would think thanks to similarities in climate, hucksterism, and the perseverance of their few hardy inhabitants. Taking readers to these and other unlikely locales, *Dispatches from Dystopia* delves into the very human and sometimes very fraught ways we come to understand a particular place, its people, and its history. In *Dispatches from Dystopia*, Brown wanders the Chernobyl Zone of Alienation, first on the Internet and then in person, to figure out which

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version—the real or the virtual—is the actual forgery. She also takes us to the basement of a hotel in Seattle to examine the personal possessions left in storage by Japanese-Americans on their way to internment camps in 1942. In Uman, Ukraine, we hide with Brown in a tree in order to witness the annual male-only Rosh Hashanah celebration of Hasidic Jews. In the Russian southern Urals, she speaks with the citizens of the small city of Kyshtym, where invisible radioactive pollutants have mysteriously blighted lives. Finally, Brown returns home to Elgin, Illinois, in the midwestern

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Industrial rust belt to investigate the rise of “rustalgia” and the ways her formative experiences have inspired her obsession with modernist wastelands. *Dispatches from Dystopia* powerfully and movingly narrates the histories of locales that have been silenced, broken, or contaminated. In telling these previously unknown stories, Brown examines the making and unmaking of place, and the lives of the people who remain in the fragile landscapes that are left behind.

[Sex Object](#)

[How to Be Heard](#)

[A House of Air](#)

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[Lost and Found in the](#)

[Mississippi Delta](#)

[Dispatches from the Vanguard](#)

[The Global International African](#)

[Arts Movement versus Donald](#)

[J. Trump](#)

[A History from 1860 to the](#)

[Present Day](#)

[On Rape](#)

[Postmodern Pooh](#)