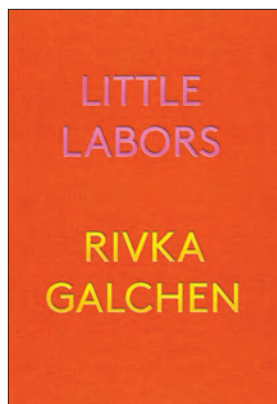


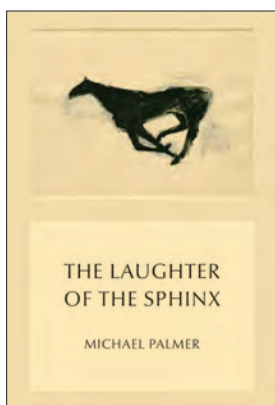
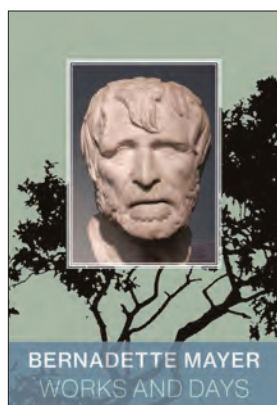
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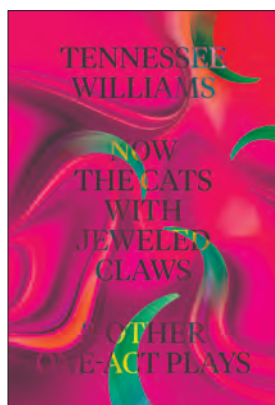
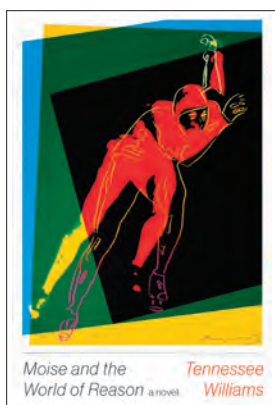
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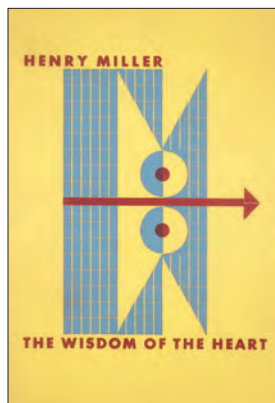
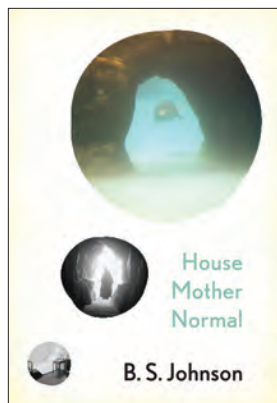
JUNE



JULY



AUGUST





# Rivka Galchen

## Little Labors

**Rivka Galchen's *Little Labors* is a droll and dazzling compendium of observations, stories, lists, and brief essays about babies and literature**

Sei Shonagon's *The Pillow Book*—a key inspiration for Rivka Galchen's new book—contains a list of “Things That Make One Nervous.” And wouldn't *the blessed event* top almost anyone's list?

*Little Labors* is a slanted, enchanted literary miscellany. Varying in length from just a sentence or paragraph to a several-page story or essay, Galchen's puzzle pieces assemble into a shining, unpredictable, mordant picture of the ordinary-extraordinary nature of babies and literature. Anecdotal or analytic, each part opens up an odd and tender world of wonder. The 47 Ronin; the black magic of maternal love; babies morphing from pumas to chickens; the quasi-repellent concept of “women writers”; origami-ophilia in Oklahoma as a gateway drug to a lifelong obsession with Japan; discussions of favorite passages from the Heian masterpieces *Genji* and *The Pillow Book*; the frightening prevalence of orange as today's new chic color for baby gifts; Frankenstein as a sort of baby; babies gold mines; babies as tiny Godzillas ...

*Little Labors*—atomized and exploratory, conceptually byzantine and freshly forthright—delights.

“To read Rivka Galchen is to enter a wonderland where the bizarre and the mundane march in unlikely lockstep.”

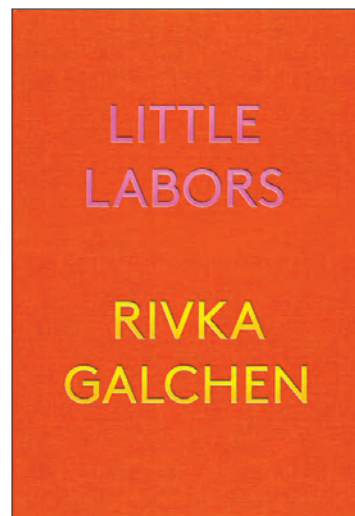
—MICHAEL LINDGREN, *THE WASHINGTON POST*

“A brilliant young writer.” —ELLE

“Galchen's sentences catch your attention and hold it with a tight fist: Delicious.” —ALAN CHEUSE, *NPR*

“Galchen has a knack for taking a thread and fraying it, so that a sentence never quite ends up where you expect.” —JAMES WOOD, *THE NEW YORKER*

**RIVKA GALCHEN's** 2008 first novel *Atmospheric Disturbances* and her 2014 story collection *American Innovations* were both *New York Times* Best Books of the Year. She received her MD from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. “Conspicuously talented” (*Time*), Galchen lives in New York City.



CLOTH

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John Keene

## Counternarratives

**Now in paperback, a bewitching collection of stories and novellas that are “suspenseful, thought-provoking, mystical, and haunting” (*Publishers Weekly*)**

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“*Counternarratives* is an extraordinary work of literature. John Keene is a dense, intricate, and magnificent writer.” —**CHRISTINE SMALLWOOD, *HARPER’S***

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“Keene exerts superb control over his stories, costuming them in the style of Jorge Luis Borges. Yet he preserves the undercurrent of excitement and pathos that accompanies his characters’ persecution and their groping toward freedom.” —**SAM SACKS, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL***

“Yet it is a book of such richness that it’s hard to know where to begin. Keene fights, and does so with grace, an agile and often vicious wit, and a stubborn, crackling beauty.” —**BEN EHRENREICH, *THE NATION***

**JOHN KEENE** is a former member of the Dark Room Writers Collective, a graduate fellow of Cave Canem, and the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including a Whiting Foundation Prize for poetry and fiction. Keene teaches at Rutgers-Newark.



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# Helen DeWitt

## The Last Samurai

**Called “remarkable” (*The Wall Street Journal*) and “an ambitious, colossal debut novel” (*Publishers Weekly*), Helen DeWitt’s *The Last Samurai* is back in print at last**

Helen DeWitt’s 2000 debut, *The Last Samurai*, was “destined to become a cult classic” (*Miramax*). The enterprising publisher sold the rights in twenty countries, so “Why not just, ‘destined to become a classic?’” (Garth Risk Hallberg) And why must cultists tell the uninitiated it has *nothing to do with Tom Cruise*?

Sibylla, an American-at-Oxford turned loose on London, finds herself trapped as a single mother after a misguided one-night stand. High-minded principles of child-rearing work disastrously well. J. S. Mill (taught Greek at three) and Yo Yo Ma (Bach at two) claimed the methods would work with any child; when these succeed with the boy Ludo, he causes havoc at school and is home again in a month. (/s he a prodigy, a genius? Readers looking over Ludo’s shoulder find themselves *easily* reading Greek and more.) Lacking male role models for a fatherless boy, Sibylla turns to endless replays of Kurosawa’s masterpiece *Seven Samurai*. But Ludo is obsessed with the one thing he wants and doesn’t know: his father’s name. At eleven, inspired by his own take on the classic film, he sets out on a secret quest for the father he never knew. He’ll be punched, sliced, and threatened with retribution. He may not live to see twelve. Or he may find a real samurai and save a mother who thinks boredom a fate worse than death.

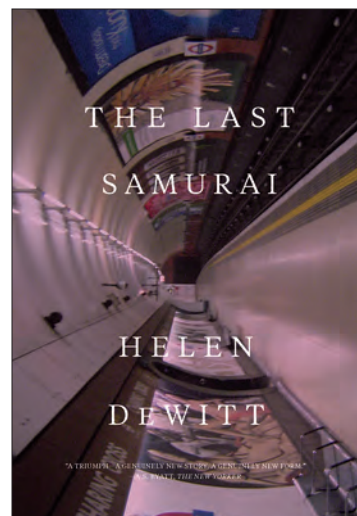
“A triumph—a genuinely new story, a genuinely new form.”

—A. S. BYATT, *THE NEW YORKER*

“*The Last Samurai* is an original work of brilliance about, in part, the limits of brilliance.” —*TIME*

“The book has been a great source of motivation for me. I must outdo Ludo, because he is younger than I am but smarter than I am. My father says that this is ridiculous, as Ludo is a fictional character. But this is precisely my point: how can I let a character who isn’t even real outdo me?” —**DANIEL (AGE 14)**

**HELEN DEWITT** was born in a suburb of Washington, D.C., in 1957. She studied at the University of Oxford and is also the author of *Lightning Rods* (New Directions, 2011). She lives in Berlin.



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# Bernadette Mayer

## Works and Days

**A brand spanking new collection, *Works and Days* is classic Bernadette Mayer: fresh, learned, exciting, and endlessly surprising**

Part springtime journal ("why are there thorns?"), *Works and Days* meditates on the first wasps and chipmunks of the season, times' passage, grackle hearts, and dandelions, while also collecting dozens of poems considering the Catholic Church, Sir Thomas Browne, "Go Away" welcome mats, books, floods ("never of dollar money"), the invention of words, local politics, friendships, property development, dogs, and Hesiod. Every page delights. As the poet herself notes: "My name is Bernadette Mayer, sometimes / I am at the head of my class."

*I don't mean to get all  
Parallel universey on you  
But I am at once the spider  
The spider web, and  
Me observing them*

"The richness of life & time as they happen to us in tiny explosions all the time are grasped and held up for us to view in her magnificent work."

**—JOHN ASHBERRY**

"One of the most interesting, exciting, and open experimental poets."

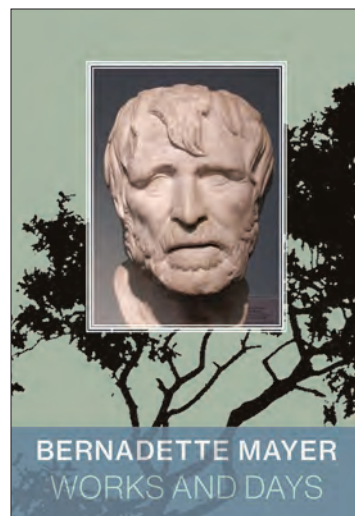
**—TOM CLARK, *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE***

"Mayer's work is marked with Dorothy Parker's bite and bawdiness and Gertrude Stein's inventive discourse." **—THE ANTIOCH REVIEW**

"Love and the seasons and the exigencies and opportunities of daily survival are the inevitable occasions of a body of work that is as radical as it is Horatian, able as little else is both to delight and instruct."

**—EDWIN FRANK, *BOSTON REVIEW***

**BERNADETTE MAYER** was born in Brooklyn in 1945. A most prolific poet, she is a recipient of a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship and now lives in East Nassau, New York. *Works and Days* is her seventh book with New Directions.



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Michael Palmer

## The Laughter of the Sphinx

**A powerful, indelible new collection by Michael Palmer—"one of America's most important poets" (*The Harvard Review*)**

Michael Palmer's new book—a collection in two parts, "The Laughter of the Sphinx" and "Still (a cantata—or nada—for Sister Satan)"—contains 52 poems.

The title poem begins "The laughter of the Sphinx / caused my eyes to bleed" and haunts us with the ruin we are making of our world, even as Palmer revels in its incredible beauty. Such central tensions in *The Laughter of the Sphinx*—between beauty and loss, love and death, motion and rest, knowledge and ignorance—glow in Palmer's lyrical play of light and entirely hypnotize the reader. The stakes, as always with Palmer, are very high, essentially life and death: "Please favor us with a reply / regarding our one-time offer / which will soon expire."

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—**THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**

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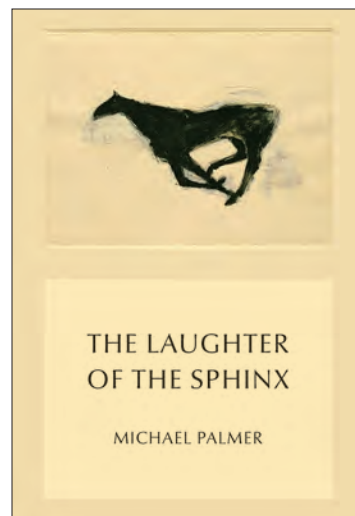
"The most influential avant-gardist working, and perhaps the greatest poet of his generation. His genius is for making the world strange again."

—**VILLAGE VOICE**

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"Palmer is among America's most elegant—and abstract—heirs to modernist poetry." —**THE BELIEVER**

Winner of the Shelley Memorial Prize and translated into over twenty-five languages, **MICHAEL PALMER** was born in New York City in 1943 and lives in San Francisco. *The Laughter of the Sphinx* is his eighth book with New Directions.



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*So what the door was guarded  
So what we were imprisoned there  
So what the street was barred off  
So what the town was under attack  
So what she was famished  
So what we were without arms  
So what night had fallen  
So what we made love.*

(Paul Éluard, translated by William Carlos Williams)

*Naked, then, she was to all of my worship,  
Smiling in triumph from the heights of her couch  
At my desire advancing, as gentle and deep  
As the sea sending its waves to the warm beach.*

(Charles Baudelaire)



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**TYNAN KOGANE** is an editor at New Directions.



# Horacio Castellanos Moya

## Revulsion: Thomas Bernhard in San Salvador

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An expatriate professor, Vega, returns from exile in Canada to El Salvador for his mother's funeral. A sensitive idealist and an aggrieved motor mouth, he sits at a bar with the author, Castellanos Moya, from five to seven in the evening, telling his tale and ranting against everything his country has to offer. Written in a single paragraph and alive with a fury as astringent as the wrath of Thomas Bernhard, *Revulsion* was first published in 1997 and earned its author death threats. Roberto Bolaño called *Revulsion* Castellanos Moya's darkest book and perhaps his best: "A parody of certain works by Bernhard and the kind of book that makes you laugh out loud."

"Castellanos Moya has turned anxiety into an art form and an act of rebellion, and redeemed paranoia as a positive indicator of rot."

—NATASHA WIMMER, *THE NATION*

"A welcome eye-opening addition to this new literature of the Latin American nightmare."

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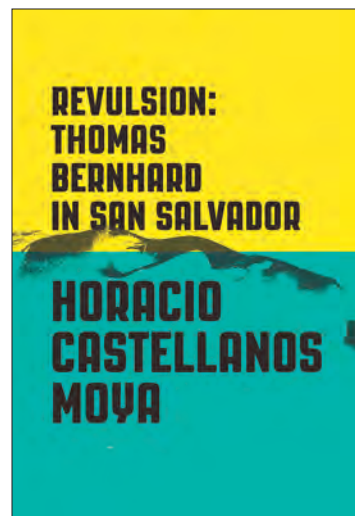
—JOHN GREENYA, *WASHINGTON TIMES*

"Acid humor, like a Buster Keaton movie or a time bomb."

—ROBERTO BOLAÑO

**HORACIO CASTELLANOS MOYA** was born in 1957 in Honduras and grew up in El Salvador. The author of eleven novels (including *Senselessness*, *The She-Devil in the Mirror*, *Tyrant Memory*, and *The Dream of My Return*), he is now living in exile in Iowa City.

**LEE KLEIN's** fiction, essays, reviews, and translations have appeared in various publications. His novel *The Shimmering Go-Between* was published in 2014 by Atticus Books.



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# Tennessee Williams

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The long unavailable *Moise and the World of Reason* represents a kind of uncensored Williams, radically frank, fully articulated, and deeply tender: a true gem.

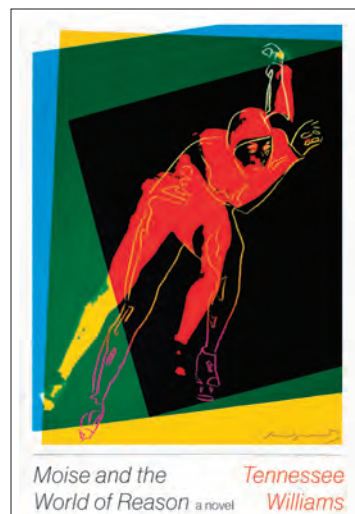
"There is no such thing as 'bad' Tennessee Williams; only wounded, subtle, sad little songs of defeat like *Moise* that should jolt adventurous readers everywhere. You might laugh out loud in pleasure at this radical little novel. I sure did." —**JOHN WATERS**

"Lovely writing. Some of his descriptive passages unfold like dark flowers. There's charm, grace, beauty here. *Moise* has the sound and feel of art."

—**THE WASHINGTON POST**

"The novel bears the playwright's familiar stamp on almost every page. And underlying the novel is Mr. Williams's message that if people can only find a little love in the dark night—a little warmth, a little kindness, a hand extended across the chasm—they will be saved from the icy world of reason that so oppresses them." —**THE NEW YORK TIMES**

**TENNESSEE WILLIAMS** (1911–1983) was the greatest American playwright of the twentieth century. New Directions publishes his short stories, poems, letters, essays, a memoir, two novels, and over a hundred of his plays.



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# Tennessee Williams

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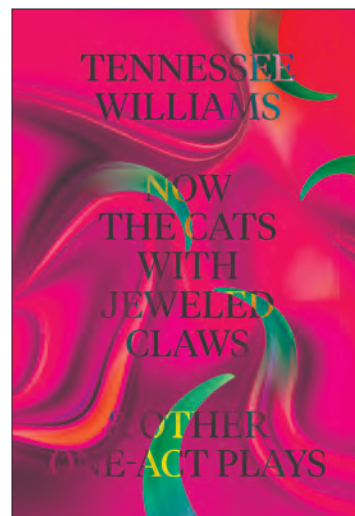
*“Now the Cats With Jeweled Claws is a loopy send-up of New York society, written in a gleefully absurdist mode.”*

**–BRUCE WEBER, *THE NEW YORK TIMES***

*“Mr. Williams is a master of the short play.”*

**–CLIVE BARNES, *THE NEW YORK TIMES***

*“Williams was always confronting the future; a shaman with a typewriter, he dug into the darkest depths of the American psyche in search of dramatic truths.”* **–RANDY GENER, *AMERICAN THEATRE MAGAZINE***



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**THOMAS KEITH** is an editor, teacher, and noted Tennessee Williams scholar.

B. S. Johnson

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“Britain’s one-man literary avant-garde.” **–JONATHAN COE**

**B. S. JOHNSON** (1933–1973) was an English experimental novelist, poet, literary critic, and filmmaker.



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Rachel Kushner

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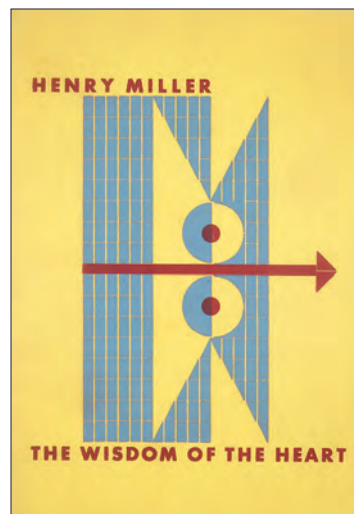
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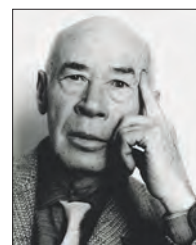
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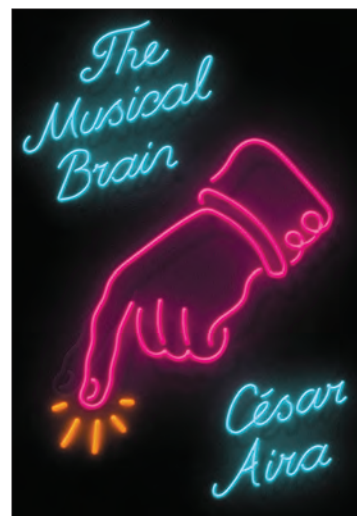
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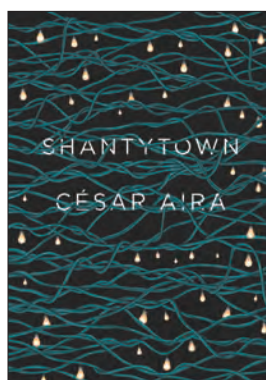
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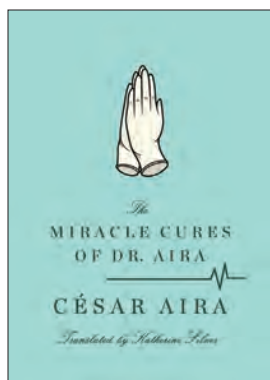
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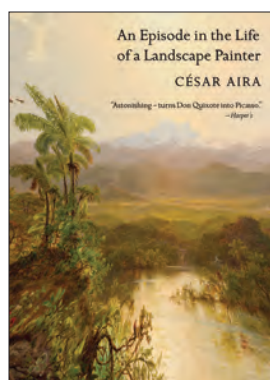
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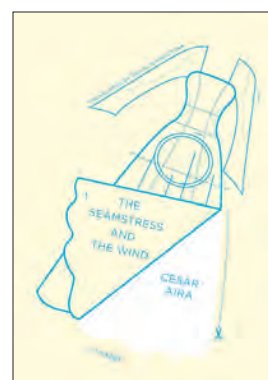
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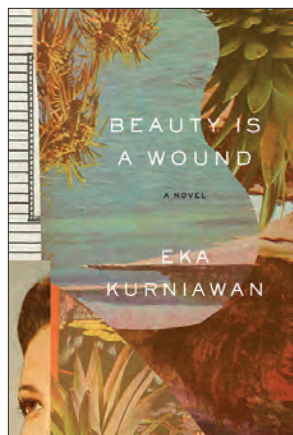


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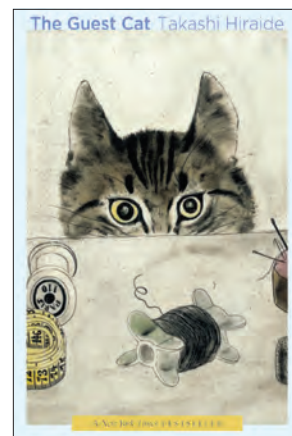
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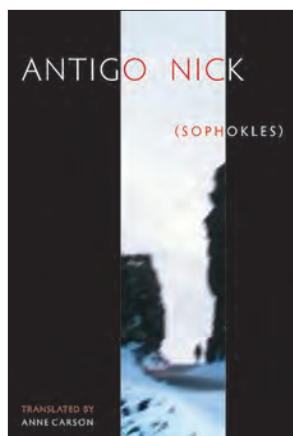
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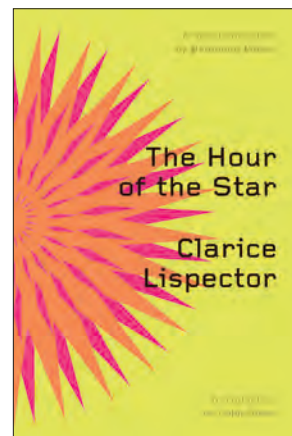
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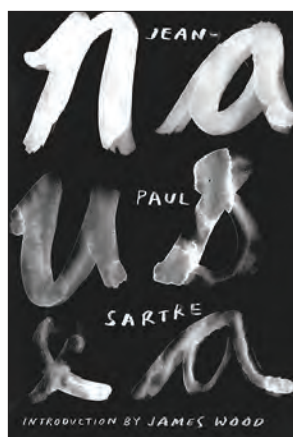
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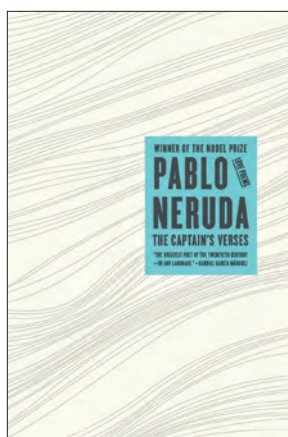
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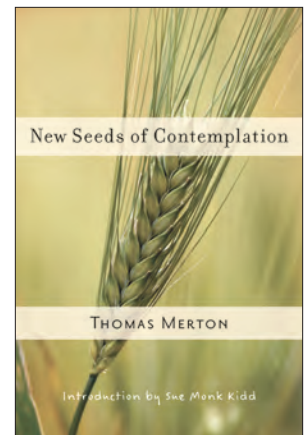
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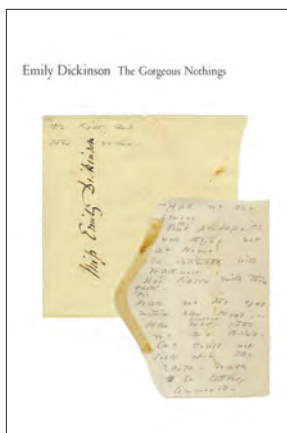
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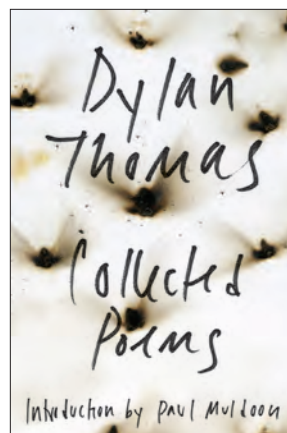
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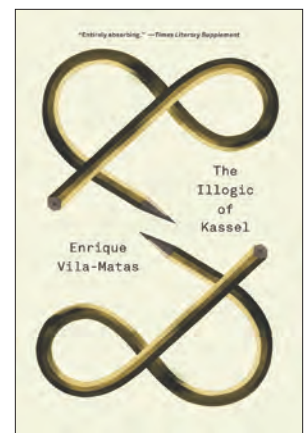
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