

## Access Free This Beautiful Life Helen Schulman Free Download Pdf

*This Beautiful Life* *This Beautiful Life* [Come with Me](#) *The Revisionist* [A Day at the Beach](#) *P.S. The Why of Things* [Want Not](#) *Wild Things* *The Possibilities* *That Kind of Mother* *The Sixteenth of June* *Beautiful Ruins* *All Grown Up* *The Whole Five Feet* *The Humanity Project* *Ties that Bind* *Wanting a Child* *Rainey Royal* *Lost Memory of Skin* [In This Way I Was Saved](#) *Want My Jim* *The Man Who Rained Gone* *Enthusiasm* *The Revelations* *Shirley* *Lightning* *Rods Like Me* [Amateurs in Eden](#) *Let the Great World Spin* *Aphasia* [P.S.](#) *The Northern Reach* *The Wilding* *What Happened to Sophie Wilder* [The German Bride](#) *The Friend Who Got Away* [When Faith Fails](#)

*The Possibilities* Jan 23 2022 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Descendants*—a “funny, insightful, and unsentimental” (People, 4 stars) novel about a grieving mother and the shocking surprise that may help her reclaim her hold on life. In the idyllic ski town of Breckenridge, Colorado, Sarah St. John is reeling. Three months ago, her twenty-two-year-old son, Cully, died in an avalanche. Sarah’s father, a retiree, tries to distract her from her grief with gadgets from the home shopping channel. Sarah’s best friend offers life advice by venting details of her own messy divorce. Even Cully’s father reemerges, stirring more emotions and confusion than Sarah needs. But Sarah feels she is facing the stages of grief—the anger, the sadness, the letting go—alone; she desperately wants to hear the swoosh of her son’s ski pants, or watch him skateboard past her window. And one day a strange girl arrives on her doorstep. Unexpected and unexplained, she bears a secret from Cully that could change all of their lives forever. With wry wit and intuition, Kauli Hart Hemmings highlights the subtle poignancies of grief and relationships in this stunning look at people faced with impossible choices. Called “surprisingly entertaining” (The New York Times Book Review) and “familiar yet richly, astutely observant and reflective” (The Boston Globe), *The Possibilities* brilliantly portrays tragic ineffability with grace and hope.

[Amateurs in Eden](#) Apr 01 2020 Nancy Durrell was a woman famous for her silences. Anaïs Nin said ‘I think often of Nancy’s most eloquent silences, Nancy talking with her fingers, her hair, her cheeks, a wonderful gift. Music again.’ As the first wife Lawrence Durrell, author of *The Alexandria Quartet*, it is perhaps surprising that she is an unknown entity, a constant presence in the biographies of Durrell and others in the Bloomsbury set, yet always a shadowy figure, beautiful and enigmatic. But who was the woman who was with Durrell during the most important years of his development as a writer? Joanna Hodgkin decides to retrace her mother’s fascinating story: the escape from her toxic and mysterious family; the years in bohemian literary London and Paris in the 1930s; marriage to Durrell and their discovery of the ‘Eden’ of pre-war Corfu and her desperate struggle to survive in Palestine alone with a small child as the British Mandate collapsed. *Amateurs in Eden* is a fascinating biography of a literary marriage and of an unusual woman struggling to live an independent life.

[A Day at the Beach](#) Jun 27 2022 The marriage of Gerhard and Suzannah Falktopf is already in trouble when tragedy strikes on the morning of September 11, 2001. Though they escape harm when the planes crash into the towers, husband and wife are suddenly cast into an unpredictable psychological space that allows their repressed selves, and their sharp differences, to rise to the surface. With their young son and nanny in tow, they head for the safety of the Hamptons. But despite their soft landing in this cocoon of privilege, the unleashed demons will push them to their psychic limits -- so much so that by the next morning they will hardly recognize each other. Taking place over a manic twenty-four hours, *A Day at the Beach* is a fast-paced, razor-sharp story whose personal tragedy contains sparks of dark humor about American life pre- and post-9/11. Helen Schulman has crafted a powerful portrait of a marriage in crisis, framed by one of the darkest events in our country’s history.

*The Humanity Project* Jul 17 2021 From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Year We Left Home* and *A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl*, this dazzling novel is hailed as an “instantly addictive...tale of yearning, paradox, and hope.” (Booklist) After surviving a horrific shooting at her high school, fifteen-year-old Linnea is packed off to live with her estranged father, Art, in California. Art, not much more than a child himself, doesn’t quite understand how or why he has suddenly become responsible for raising a sullen—and probably deeply damaged—adolescent girl. And although Linnea has little interest in her father, she becomes fascinated by the eccentric cast of characters surrounding him: Conner, a local handyman whose own home life is a war zone, and Christie, her neighbor, who has just been given the reins to a bizarrely named charity fund, the Humanity Project. As the Fund gains traction and Linnea begins to heal, the Humanity Project begs the question: Can you indeed pay someone to be good? At what price? Thompson proves herself at the height of her powers in *The Humanity Project*, crafting emotionally suspenseful and thoroughly entertaining characters, in which we inevitably see ourselves. Set against the backdrop of current events and cultural calamity, it is at once a multifaceted ensemble drama and a deftly observed story of our twenty-first-century society.

*The Revisionist* Jul 29 2022 With his personal and professional life coming apart at the seams, Dr. David Hershleder, the son of a Holocaust survivor, confronts the author of a controversial book that denies the reality of the Holocaust and comes face to face with the truths, realities, and memories of his own life. 15,000 first printing.

*Wanting a Child* May 15 2021 Explores the alternative way in which people may become pregnant today and the humor, courage, pain, and joys of becoming a parent

[In This Way I Was Saved](#) Feb 09 2021 I pounded myself against the inside of his head, but it was useless. He couldn't hear me; I was trapped. So, like any other prisoner, I waited. I bided my time. Luke is six. He is a lonely child, but he has one friend, his best friend -- Daniel -- whom he met in the playground on the day his parents finalized their divorce. Only Luke can see Daniel. They play games together, and Daniel watches over Luke; he is there when he first wakes up and there when he goes to sleep. Daniel's first memory is of Luke calling his name in the playground. Daniel is not an ordinary child. Luke's mother spends more and more time in her room, haunted by family memories. She takes Luke and Daniel from New York to a deserted beach town, as winter sets in. Daniel is changing. He feels faint, weightless. Luke seems forgetful of him. Time passes. Luke and Daniel have not seen one another for a long time. Until, one night, Daniel suddenly finds himself standing in Luke's bedroom, woken by the sound of breaking glass. He does not know how much time he has; but he knows how he can be saved.

*Ties that Bind* Jun 15 2021 ""Familial homophobia," as prizewinning writer and professor Sarah Schulman calls it, is a phenomenon that until now has not had a name but that is very much a part of life for the LGBT community. In the same way that Susan Brownmiller's *Against Our Will* transformed our understanding of rape by moving the stigma from the victim to the perpetrator, Schulman's *Ties That Bind* calls on us to recognize familial homophobia. She invites us to understand it not as a personal problem but a widespread cultural crisis. She challenges us to take up our responsibilities to intervene without violating families, community, and the state. With devastating examples, Schulman clarifies how abusive treatment of homosexuals at home enables abusive treatment of homosexuals in other relationships as well as in society at large."

*All Grown Up* Sep 18 2021 'Hilarious, courageous and mesmerising' Maria Semple 'Think BBC's *Fleabag* set in Brooklyn' Stylist 'I'm alone. I'm a drinker. I'm a former artist. I'm a shrieker in bed. I'm the captain of the sinking ship that is my flesh.' Andrea is a single, childless 39-year-old woman who tries to navigate family, sexuality, friendships and a career she never wanted, but battles with thoughts and desires that few people would want to face up to. Gut-wrenchingly honest and shimmering with rage and intimacy, *All Grown Up* questions what it means to be a 21st century woman: - What if I don't want to hold your baby? - Can I date you without ever hearing about your divorce? - What can I demand of my mother now that I am an adult? - Is therapy pointless? - At what point does drinking a lot become a drinking problem? - Why does everyone keep asking me why I am not married? Powerfully intelligent and wickedly funny, *All Grown Up* delves into the psyche of a flawed but mesmerising character. Readers will recognise themselves in Jami Attenberg's truthful account of womanhood, though they might not always want to admit it.

*Aphasia* Jan 29 2020 'Monumental, funny, potent, and fresh' Carlos Fonseca, author of *Natural History* A modernist tour de force from an exhilarating new talent Antonio's sister is on the run. Convinced that Antonio is conspiring with Obama, the Pentagon, and now her own neighbours, she's disappeared. Antonio, however, is doing his best to think of anything but his sister or, for that matter, any of his problems. By day, he's Antonio, father of two, recent divorcee and unenthusiastic database analyst. In private, he divides his time between visits to seedy pick-up website 'Your Sugar Arrangements', and hours spent combing fiction and film for examples of how to become a better father. As the meticulously crafted structure of his outwardly comfortable life begins to crumble, Antonio submerges himself in the lives of those who have shaped him. What really caused his mother to leave Antonio's father with her two young children in tow? What lies beneath his Czech ex-wife's troubled, obsessive relationship with her country? And where does Antonio, the man, fit in all this? Propulsive and freewheeling, Mauro Javier Cárdenas' second novel is a daring examination of identity in a world that seems determined to fragment us.

*Lost Memory of Skin* Mar 13 2021 Suspended in a strangely modern-day version of limbo, a young man must create a life for himself in the wake of incarceration. Known only as the Kid, and on probation after doing time for a liaison with an underage girl, he is shackled to a GPS monitoring device and forbidden to live within 2,500 feet of anywhere children might gather. With nowhere else to go, the Kid takes up residence in a makeshift encampment with other convicted sex offenders. Barely beyond childhood himself, the Kid is in many ways an innocent, trapped by impulses and foolish choices. Enter the Professor, a man who has built his own life on secrets and lies. A university sociologist of enormous size and intellect, he finds in the Kid the perfect subject for his research on homelessness and reoffending sex offenders. The two men forge a tentative partnership. But when the Professor's past resurfaces and threatens to destroy his carefully constructed world, the balance in the two men's relationship shifts. Suddenly, the Kid must reconsider everything he has come to believe, and choose what course of action to take when faced with a new kind of moral decision.

*That Kind of Mother* Dec 22 2021 NAMED A RECOMMENDED BOOK OF 2018 BY: Buzzfeed • The Boston Globe • The Millions • InStyle • Southern Living • Vogue • Popsugar • Kirkus • The Washington Post • Library Journal • Real Simple • NPR "With his unerring eye for nuance and unsparing sense of irony, Rumaan Alam's second novel is both heartfelt and thought-provoking." — Celeste Ng, author of *Little Fires Everywhere* From the bestselling author of *Leave the World Behind*, a novel about the families we fight to build and those we fight to keep Like many first-time mothers, Rebecca Stone finds herself both deeply in love with her newborn son and deeply overwhelmed. Struggling to juggle the demands of motherhood with her own aspirations and feeling utterly alone in the process, she reaches out to the only person at the hospital who offers her any real help—Priscilla Johnson—and begs her to come home with them as her son's nanny. Priscilla's presence quickly does as much to shake up Rebecca's perception of the world as it does to stabilize her life. Rebecca is white, and Priscilla is black, and through their relationship, Rebecca finds herself confronting, for the first time, the blind spots of her own privilege. She feels profoundly connected to the woman who essentially taught her what it means to be a mother. When Priscilla dies unexpectedly in childbirth, Rebecca steps forward to adopt the baby. But she is unprepared for what it means to be a white mother with a black son. As she soon learns, navigating motherhood for her is a matter of learning how to raise two children whom she loves with equal ferocity, but whom the world is determined to treat differently. Written with the warmth and psychological acuity that defined his debut, Rumaan Alam has crafted a remarkable novel about the lives we choose, and the lives that are chosen for us.

*P.S.* May 27 2022 What do you do when the fantasy of reuniting with your first love comes true? Especially when he died in a car crash twenty years earlier... Louise Harrington pines for her youth as she looks out her office window at the quad. Her ten-year marriage ended four years ago, for reasons she has yet to fathom. At thirty-eight she is as confused about the men in her life as she ever was at seventeen. So when the double of her high school sweetheart appears in her life, she can not tell if she has gone mad, if this is a joke or some kind of miracle. When her best friend Missy gets involved (it has taken Louise years to forgive her for stealing him the first time) history begins to repeat itself as Louise tries to make sense of the crazy and mysterious turn her life has taken. P.S. is a beautifully written, witty, and profound examination of desire, at once deeply affecting and knowingly humorous about affairs of the heart. Schulman has written a love story, a mystery, a nostalgic romp for anyone who's ever been in and out of love.

[Come with Me](#) Aug 30 2022 A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year, A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, A New York Post Best Book of the Week Recommended by Vogue, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Skimm, The BBC, Southern Living, Pure Wow, Hey Alma, Esquire, EW, Refinery 29, Bust, and Read It or Weep "Mind-blowingly brilliant... Provocative, profound and yes, a little unsettling. Come With Me is about how technology breaks apart and then reconfigures a family, and though it has hints of sci-fi, it's so beautifully grounded in reality that it seems to breathe. Although it takes place over just three days, what's so fascinating is that so many lives, and many possibilities, are lived through it. Truly, it's a novel like its own multiverse." — San Francisco Chronicle From Helen Schulman, the acclaimed author of the New York Times bestseller *This Beautiful Life*, comes another "gripping, potent, and blisteringly well-written story of family, dilemma, and consequence" (Elizabeth Gilbert)—a mind-bending novel set in Silicon Valley that challenges our modern constructs of attachment and love, purpose and fate. "What do you want to know?" Amy Reed works part-time as a PR

person for a tech start-up, run by her college roommate's nineteen-year-old son, in Palo Alto, California. Donny is a baby genius, a junior at Stanford in his spare time. His play for fortune is an algorithm that may allow people access to their "multiverses"—all the planes on which their alternative life choices can be played out simultaneously—to see how the decisions they've made have shaped their lives. Donny wants Amy to be his guinea pig. And even as she questions Donny's theories and motives, Amy finds herself unable to resist the lure of the road(s) not taken. Who would she be if she had made different choices, loved different people? Where would she be now? Amy's husband, Dan—an unemployed, perhaps unemployable, print journalist—accepts a dare of his own, accompanying a seductive, award-winning photographer named Maryam on a trip to Fukushima, the Japanese city devastated by tsunami and meltdown. Collaborating with Maryam, Dan feels a renewed sense of excitement and possibility he hasn't felt with his wife in a long time. But when crisis hits at home, the extent of Dan's betrayal is exposed and, as Amy contemplates alternative lives, the couple must confront whether the distances between them in the here and now are irreconcilable. Taking place over three non-consecutive but vitally important days for Amy, Dan, and their three sons, *Come with Me* is searing, entertaining, and unexpected—a dark comedy that is ultimately both a deeply romantic love story and a vivid tapestry of modern life.

*This Beautiful Life* Sep 30 2022 It could happen to any family... What if it happened to yours? When the Bergamots move to the city, they're unsure how well they'll adapt. Soon though, Richard is consumed by his new job and Liz, who has given up her career, is hectically playing mother to six-year-old Coco and fifteen-year-old Jake. But the day Jake unthinkingly forwards a sexually explicit email attachment sent to him by a young girl is the last day of the Bergamots' comfortable middle-class existence. Within hours, the video clip is not only all over Jake's school, but all over the city - and all over the internet. Faced with impossible choices, what Richard and Liz do next risks destroying not only their marriage, their daughter and their place in the community, but also Jake - the child they have set out to protect. The controversial and explosive story of how one email can tear a family apart. 'One of the most gifted writers of our generation.' Jennifer Egan, author of *A Visit From the Goon Squad* 'A gripping, potent and blisteringly well-written story of family, dilemma and consequence.' Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

*P.S.* Dec 30 2019 Louise Harrington's ten-year marriage ended for reasons she has yet to fathom even four years later. At thirty-eight she is as confused about the men in her life as she was at seventeen. So when the double of her high school sweetheart appears in her life, she can't tell if she's gone mad, if it's a joke or a miracle. When her best friend Missy gets involved (it has taken Louise years to forgive her for stealing him in the first place) history begins to repeat itself all over again...

*When Faith Fails* Jun 23 2019 Wrestling with doubt can be profoundly lonely, but Portland pastor Dominic Done offers a safe place to openly wrestle with your faith without being criticized or judged. Writing with humor and candor out of his own experiences, and incorporating Scripture, literature, and accounts of others who have doubted, Dominic Done argues that not only is questioning normal, it is often a path toward a rich and vibrant faith. Rather than viewing trust and doubt as incompatible, *When Faith Fails* provides readers with a way to wrestle and ask questions while growing ever closer to God. No subject is off-limits, and Dominic fearlessly and graciously addresses topics including: the experience of tragedy, the difficult parts of the Bible, the intersection of science and faith, the times when God is silent, by walking in the path that many others have trod, you can move through doubt into a deeper, fuller faith—a faith that doesn't run from questions and the hard work of honest wrestling but instead embraces the mysteries of belief. "This book is for those of us who have experienced a gut check, or two, when it comes to some of the intersections between our lives and our faith. It's for those of us who no longer want to add unnecessary explanations to our beliefs just because we can't fully see what God is doing in our lives." —Bob Goff, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Everybody, Always* "This book is one of those books that I will be buying to give to multiple friends." —Jefferson Bethke, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Jesus > Religion* "This book will help you surrender and trust the areas of your life that are meant to evade God-designed mystery, while also holding your hand as you search for substance and truth." —Audrey Roloff, coauthor of *A Love Letter Life*, founder of *Always More*, and cofounder of *Beating50Percent* "Doubt is such a pertinent issue in this cultural moment. Dominic walks us through the issues of doubt with which we wrestle but he does so in pastoral practicality. One feels as though you are seated in his living room sipping coffee. Dominic is the type of soul who understands the questions of the heart. He never shames. He's always transparent. He gives substantive hope." —Emerson Eggerichs, PhD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love & Respect*

*Wild Things* Feb 21 2022 An irresistible, nostalgic, insightful—and totally original—ramble through classic children's literature from *Vanity Fair* contributing editor (and father) Bruce Handy. "Consistently intelligent and funny...The book succeeds wonderfully." —*The New York Times Book Review* "A delightful excursion...Engaging and full of genuine feeling." —*The Wall Street Journal* "Pure pleasure." —*Vanity Fair* "Witty and engaging...Deeply satisfying." —*Christian Science Monitor* In 1690, the dour *New England Primer*, thought to be the first American children's book, was published in Boston. Offering children gems of advice such as "Strive to learn" and "Be not a dunce," it was no fun at all. So how did we get from there to "Let the wild rumpus start"? And now that we're living in a golden age of children's literature, what can adults get out of reading *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Goodnight Moon*, or *Charlotte's Web* and *Little House on the Prairie*? In *Wild Things*, Bruce Handy revisits the classics of American childhood, from fairy tales to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and explores the backstories of their creators, using context and biography to understand how some of the most insightful, creative, and witty authors and illustrators of their times created their often deeply personal masterpieces. Along the way, Handy learns what *The Cat in the Hat* says about anarchy and absentee parenting, which themes link *The Runaway Bunny* and *Porinoy's Complaint*, and why *Ramona Quimby* is as true an American icon as *Tom Sawyer* or *Jay Gatsby*. It's a profound, eye-opening experience to reencounter books that you once treasured after decades apart. A clear-eyed love letter to the greatest children's books and authors, from *Louisa May Alcott* and *L. Frank Baum* to *Eric Carle*, *Dr. Seuss*, *Mildred D. Taylor*, and *E.B. White*, *Wild Things* will bring back fond memories for readers of all ages, along with a few surprises.

*This Beautiful Life* Nov 01 2022 It could happen to any family... What if it happened to yours? When the Bergamots move to the city, they're unsure how well they'll adapt. Soon though, Richard is consumed by his new job and Liz, who has given up her career, is hectically playing mother to six-year-old Coco and fifteen-year-old Jake. But the day Jake unthinkingly forwards a sexually explicit email attachment sent to him by a young girl is the last day of the Bergamots' comfortable middle-class existence. Within hours, the video clip is not only all over Jake's school, but all over the city - and all over the internet. Faced with impossible choices, what Richard and Liz do next risks destroying not only their marriage, their daughter and their place in the community, but also Jake - the child they have set out to protect. The controversial and explosive story of how one email can tear a family apart. 'One of the most gifted writers of our generation.' Jennifer Egan, author of *A Visit From the Goon Squad* 'A gripping, potent and blisteringly well-written story of family, dilemma and consequence.' Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love* *Enthusiasm* Sep 06 2020 "When someone asks for a reading suggestion, *Enthusiasm* is the first word off my tongue." —Stephanie Meyer, author of *Twilight* "There is little more likely to exasperate a person of sense than finding herself tied by affection and habit to an *Enthusiast*." Julie knows from bitter experience: her best friend, Ashleigh, is an *Enthusiast*. Ashleigh's current fancy is also Julie's own passion, *Pride and Prejudice*, and the heroine's quest for *True Love*. And so Julie finds herself swept along with Ashleigh, dressed in vintage frocks and sneaking into a dance at the local all-boys' prep school. There they discover several likely candidates for *True Love*, including the handsome and sensitive *Parr*. And Julie begins to wonder if maybe this obsession of Ashleigh's isn't so bad after all. . . . *Fans of Jane Austen* and *Meg Cabot*, and *Maureen Johnson* alike will swoon for *Polly Shulman's* charming novel.

*Want Not* Mar 25 2022 A *New York Times* Book "A wonderful book, and there's no one I would not urge to read it. . . . This is the work of a fluid, confident and profoundly talented writer who gets more fluid, more confident and seemingly more talented even within the book itself." —*Dave Eggers, New York Times Book Review* A highly inventive and corrosively funny story of our times, *Want Not* exposes three different worlds in various states of disrepair—a young freegan couple living off the grid in New York City; a once-prominent linguist, sacked at midlife by the dissolution of his marriage and his father's losing battle with Alzheimer's; and a self-made debt-collecting magnate, whose brute talent for squeezing money out of unlikely places has yielded him a royal existence, trophy wife included. *Want and desire* propel these characters forward toward something, anything, more, until their worlds collide, briefly, randomly, yet irrevocably, in a shattering ending that will haunt readers long after the last page is turned. "Shrewd, funny, and sometimes devastating. . . . What *Want Not* does best, though, isn't plotting but portraits of humanity: the small epiphanies and private hurts of every person whose life, like the detritus they produce, is as beautifully mundane and unique as a fingerprint." —*Entertainment Weekly* "An impassioned work of fiction." —*Dallas Morning News*

*What Happened to Sophie Wilder* Sep 26 2019 A heartfelt exploration of faith and love and friendship, *What Happened to Sophie Wilder* is a beautiful, absorbing work about the redemptive power of storytelling: a literary love story. Charlie Blakeman has just published his first novel, to almost no acclaim. He's living on New York's Washington Square, struggling with his follow-up, and floundering within his pseudointellectual coterie when his college love, Sophie Wilder, returns to his life. Sophie is also struggling, though Charlie isn't sure why, since they've barely spoke, after falling out a decade before. Now Sophie begins to tell Charlie the story of her life since then, particularly the story of the days she spent taking care of a dying man with his own terrible past and of the difficult decision he forced her to make. When she disappears once again, Charlie sets out to discover what happened to Sophie Wilder. Christopher Beha's debut novel explores faith, love, friendship, and, ultimately, the redemptive power of storytelling.

*The Why of Things* Apr 25 2022 "A fast-paced, entertaining summer read" (*People*), *The Why of Things* is a "keenly observed" and "richly drawn" (*The New York Times*) novel about a family fighting towards hope in the wake of a terrible tragedy. Since the loss of her seventeen-year-old daughter less than a year ago, Joan Jacobs has struggled to keep her tight-knit family from coming apart. But Joan and Anders, her husband, are unable to snap back into the familiarity and warmth they so desperately need, both for themselves and for their surviving daughters, Eve and Eloise. The family flees to their summer home in search of peace and renewal, only to encounter an eerily similar tragedy when a pickup truck drives into the quarry in their backyard killing a young local named James Favazza. As the Jacobs family learns more about the inexplicable events that preceded that fateful evening, each of them becomes increasingly tangled in the emotional threads of James's story: fifteen-year-old Eve is determined to solve, on her own, the mystery of his death; Anders finds himself facing his own deepest fears; and seven-year-old Eloise unwittingly adopts James's orphaned dog. For her part, Joan becomes increasingly fixated on James's mother, a stranger whose sudden loss so closely mirrors her own. With an urgent, beautiful intimacy that her fans have come to expect from this "bitingly intelligent writer" (*The New York Times*), Elizabeth Hartley Winthrop delivers here a powerful, buoyant novel that explores the complexities of family relationships and the small triumphs that can bring unexpected healing. *The Why of Things* is a wise, empathetic, and exquisitely heartfelt story about the strength of family bonds. It is an unforgettable and searing tour de force.

*The Man Who Rained* Nov 08 2020 When Elsa's father is killed in a tornado, all she wants is to escape - from New York, her job, her boyfriend - to somewhere new, anonymous, set apart. For some years she has been haunted by a sight once seen from an aeroplane: a tiny, isolated settlement called Thunderstown. Thunderstown has received many a pilgrim, and young Elsa becomes its latest - drawn to this weather-ravaged backwater, this place rendered otherworldly by the superstitions of its denizens. In Thunderstown, they say, the weather can come to life and when Elsa meets Finn Munro, an outcast living in the mountains above the town, she wonders whether she has witnessed just that. For Finn has an incredible secret: he has a thunderstorm inside of him. Not everyone in town wants happiness for Elsa and Finn. As events turn against them, can they weather the tempest - can they survive at all? *The Man Who Rained* is a work of lyrical, mercurial magic and imagination, a modern-day fable about the elements of love.

*Lightning Rods* Jun 03 2020 The long-awaited second novel by the author of "arguably the most exciting debut novel of the decade: *The Last Samurai*." (*Sam Anderson, New York*). "All I want is to be a success. That's all I ask." Joe fails to sell a single set of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* in six months. Then fails to sell a single *Electrolux* and must eat 126 pieces of homemade pie, served up by his would-be customers who feel sorry for him. Holed up in his trailer, Joe finds an outlet for his frustrations in a series of ingenious sexual fantasies, and at last strikes gold. His brainstrom, *Lightning Rods, Inc.*, will take Joe to the very top — and to the very heart of corporate insanity — with an outrageous solution to the spectre of sexual harassment in the modern office. An uproarious, hard-boiled modern fable of corporate life, sex, and race in America, *Helen DeWitt's Lightning Rods* brims with the satiric energy of *Nathanael West* and the philosophic import of an Aristophanic comedy of ideas. Her wild yarn is second cousin to the spirit of *Mel Brooks* and the hilarious reality-blurring of *Being John Malkovich*. *DeWitt* continues to take the novel into new realms of storytelling — as the timeliness of *Lightning Rods* crosses over into timelessness.

*Shirley* Jul 05 2020 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING ELIZABETH MOSS AND MICHAEL STUHLBARG! "Susan Scarf Merrell brilliantly weaves events from Shirley Jackson's life into a hypnotic story line" in this darkly thrilling novel about the author of *The Haunting of Hill House* and *The Lottery*. Two imposing literary figures are at the heart of this captivating novel: celebrated author Shirley Jackson and her husband, Stanley Edgar Hyman, a literary critic and professor at Bennington College. When a young graduate student and his pregnant wife—Fred and Rose Nemeser—move into Shirley and Stanley's home in the fall of 1964, they quickly fall under the magnetic spell of their brilliant and unconventional hosts. While Fred becomes preoccupied with his teaching schedule, Rose forms an unlikely, turbulent friendship with the troubled and unpredictable Shirley. Fascinated by the Hymans' volatile marriage and inexplicably drawn to the darkly enigmatic author, Rose nonetheless senses something amiss—something to do with nightly unanswered phone calls and inscrutable accounts of a long-missing female student. Chillingly atmospheric and evocative of Jackson's own classic stories, *Shirley* is an elegant thriller with one of America's greatest horror writers at its heart. \**The Washington Post*

*The Friend Who Got Away* Jul 25 2019 Losing a friend can be as painful and as agonizing as a divorce or the end of a love affair, yet it is rarely written about or even discussed. *THE FRIEND WHO GOT AWAY* is the first book to address this near-universal experience, bringing together the brave, eloquent voices of writers like Francine Prose, Katie Roiphe, Dorothy Allison, Elizabeth Strout, Ann Hood, Diana Abu Jabbar, Vivian Gornick, Helen Schulman, and many others. Some write of friends who have drifted away, others of sudden breakups that took them by surprise. Some even celebrate their liberation from unhealthy or destructive relationships. Yet at the heart of each story is the recognition of a loss that will never be forgotten. From stories about friendships that dissolved when one person revealed a hidden self or moved into a different world, to tales of relationships sabotaged by competition, personal ambition, or careless indifference, *THE FRIEND WHO GOT AWAY* casts new light on the meaning and nature of women's friendships. Katie Roiphe writes with regret about the period in her life when even close friends seemed expendable compared to men and sex. Mary Morris reveals how a loan led to the unraveling of a lifelong friendship. Vivian Gornick explores how intellectual differences eroded the bond between once inseparable companions. And two contributors, once best friends, tell both sides of the story that led to their painful breakup. Written especially for this anthology and touched with humor, sadness, and sometimes anger, these extraordinary pieces simultaneously evoke the uniqueness of each situation and illuminate the universal emotions evoked by the loss of a friend.

*The Revelations* Aug 06 2020 A group of young people are searching for meaning in a dark and directionless world. *The Course*, a religious movement led by a charismatic priest, seems at first to offer everything the friends have been looking for: a community of bright, thoughtful, beautiful people. But as they are drawn deeper into the Course, money, sex and God collide, threatening to rip them apart. This gripping novel of ideas lays bare a world where the advancement of a movement becomes more important than the lives of its followers.

*The Sixteenth of June* Nov 20 2021 A finely observed debut novel that paints a funny, moving, truthful portrayal of a family at a turning point: "A triumph" (Helen Schulman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *This Beautiful Life*). Leopold Portman dreams of settling down in Philadelphia's bucolic suburbs and starting a family with his fiancée, Nora. A talented singer in mourning for her mother, Nora has abandoned a promising opera career and wonders what her destiny holds. Her best friend, Stephen, Leopold's brother, dithers in his seventh year of graduate school and privately questions Leo and Nora's relationship. On June 16, 2004, the three are brought together—first for a funeral, then for the Portmans' annual Bloomsday party. As the long-simmering tensions between them rise, they must confront their pasts and their hopes for the future. Clever, lyrical, and poignant, *The Sixteenth of June* delves into the frictions and allegiances of friendships, the murky uncertainty of early adulthood, and the yearning to belong. Offering a nod to James Joyce's *Ulysses*, this remarkable novel explores the secrets we keep and the lengths we go to for acceptance and love. It is "a perfect book for fans of Jonathan Tropper, Meg Wolitzer, and, yes, James Joyce" (*Star Tribune*, Minneapolis).

*Beautiful Ruins* Oct 20 2021 In 1962, on a rocky patch of sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper looks out over the incandescent waters of the sea and spies a woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. He learns that she is an American starlet who is said to be dying. And the story begins again in the present when half a world away, an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier. What unfolds is a dazzling, yet deeply human, roller coaster of a novel, spanning fifty years and nearly as many lives including the starstruck Italian innkeeper and his long-lost love; the producer who once brought them together and his idealistic young assistant; the army veteran turned fledgling novelist and the rakish Richard Burton himself, whose appetites set the whole story in motion. Gloriously inventive and constantly surprising, *Beautiful Ruins* is a story of flawed yet fascinating people, navigating the rocky shores of their lives while clinging to their improbable dreams.

*The German Bride* Aug 25 2019 Berlin, 1865. Eva Frank, the daughter of a benevolent Jewish banker, and her sister, Henriette, are having their portrait painted—which leads to a secret affair between young Eva and the mercurial artist. This indiscretion has far-reaching consequences, more devastating than Eva or her family could have imagined. Distracted and desperate to escape her painful situation, Eva hastily marries Abraham Shein, an ambitious merchant who has returned home to Germany for the first time in a decade since establishing himself in the American West. The eighteen-year-old bride leaves Berlin and its ghosts for an unfamiliar life halfway across the world, traversing the icy waters of the Atlantic and the rugged, sweeping terrain of the Santa Fe Trail. Though Eva's existence in the rough and burgeoning community of Sante Fe, New Mexico, is a far cry from her life as a daughter of privilege, she soon begins to settle into the mystifying town, determined to create a home. But this new setting cannot keep at bay the overwhelming memories of her former life, nor can it protect her from an increasing threat to her own safety that will force Eva to make a fateful decision. Joanna Hershon's novel is a gripping and gritty portrayal of urban European immigrants struggling with New World frontier life in the mid-nineteenth century. Vivid and emotionally compelling, *The German Bride* is also a beautiful narrative on how far one must travel to make peace with the past. BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Joanna Hershon's *A Dual Inheritance*.

*Let the Great World Spin* Mar 01 2020 In 1974 Manhattan, a radical young Irish monk struggles with personal demons while making his home among Bronx prostitutes, a group of mothers shares grief over their lost Vietnam soldier sons, and a young grandmother attempts to prove her worth.

*Like Me* May 03 2020 A seductive psychological thriller about obsession, illusion, and female identity in the digital age. Though beautiful, cunning, and privileged, nineteen-year-old Mickey finds herself with a stalled modeling career, an escalating drinking problem, few friends, and next to nothing in the bank. To numb her growing despair, she spends her days frantically refreshing her Instagram feed, obsessively tracking the movements of Insta-famous model Gemma Anton. Mickey sees Gemma as a perfected version of herself. Gemma is living a seemingly perfect life: a skyrocketing career, a famous boyfriend, and adoring followers. It's the life Mickey wants more than anything. Mickey studies every detail Gemma offers through the window of her phone, trying to absorb, mimic, become the object of her growing fascination. When a chance encounter thrusts Mickey into a world of opportunity, she is met with surprising—and immediate—success. But as her online persona begins to take over, the line between reality and illusion disappears. Then suddenly, so does Gemma. Engrossing, sharp, and astute, *Like Me* is a shimmering portrait of infatuation, disconnection, and identity—and a dazzling introduction to a brilliant new voice in contemporary literature.

*Gone* Oct 08 2020 Celebrating the achievement of a successful career only to be abandoned by her failed sculptor husband, Eve Adams struggles to raise her children alone while balancing conflicting demands, the realities of midlife and her evolving views on forgiveness and letting go. By the author of *Sweet Ruin*.

*Rainey Royal* Apr 13 2021 Set in the bohemian Greenwich Village of the 1970s, Dylan Landis, winner of a 2014 O. Henry Prize (for "Trust," a section of this novel) weaves a powerful story of girlhood, friendship, and sexuality. Fourteen-year-old Rainey Royal lives with her father, a jazz musician with a cultish personality, in a once-elegant, now-decaying brownstone. Her mother has abandoned the family, and Rainey fends off advances from her father's best friend while trying desperately to nurture her own creative drives and build a substitute family. She's a rebel, even a criminal, but she's also deeply vulnerable, fighting to figure out how to put back in place the boundaries her life has knocked down, and more than that, struggling to learn how to be an artist and a person in a broken world. *Rainey Royal* is told in 14 narratives of scarred and aching beauty that build into a fiercely powerful novel: the harrowing and ultimately affirming story of a young artist.

*The Wilding* Oct 27 2019 A powerful debut novel set in a threatened western landscape, from the award-winning author of *Refresh, Refresh* Echo Canyon is a disappearing pocket of wilderness outside of Bend, Oregon, and the site of conflicting memories for Justin Caves and his father, Paul. It's now slated for redevelopment as a golfing resort. When Paul suggests one last hunting trip, Justin accepts, hoping to get things right with his father this time, and agrees to bring his son, Graham, along. As the weekend unfolds, Justin is pushed to the limit by the reckless taunting of his father, the physical demands of the terrain, and the menacing evidence of the hovering presence of bear. All the while, he remembers the promise he made to his skeptical wife: to keep their son safe. Benjamin Percy, a writer whose work *Dan Chaon* called "bighearted and drunk and dangerous," shows his mastery of narrative suspense as the novel builds to its surprising climax. *The Wilding* shines unexpected light on our shifting relationship with nature and family in contemporary society.

*Want* Jan 11 2021 Named a Best Book of 2020 by *Time Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *NPR*, *Vulture*, *The New Yorker*, and *Kirkus* *Grappling with motherhood, economic anxiety, rage, and the limits of language*, *Want* is a fiercely personal novel that vibrates with anger, insight, and love. Elizabeth is tired. Years after coming to New York to try to build a life, she has found herself with two kids, a husband, two jobs, a PhD—and now they're filing for bankruptcy. As she tries to balance her dream and the impossibility of striving toward it while her work and home lives feel poised to fall apart, she wakes at ungodly hours to run miles by the icy river, struggling to quiet her thoughts. When she reaches out to Sasha, her long-lost childhood friend, it feels almost harmless—one of those innocuous ruptures that exist online, in texts. But her timing is uncanny. Sasha is facing a crisis, too, and perhaps after years apart, their shared moments of crux can bring them back into each other's lives. In *Want*, Lynn Steger Strong explores the subtle violences enacted on a certain type of woman when she dares to want things—and all the various violences in which she implicates herself as she tries to survive.

*The Northern Reach* Nov 28 2019 A heart-wrenching first novel about the power of place and family ties, the weight of the stories we choose to tell, and the burden of those we hide. Frozen in grief after the loss of her son at sea, Edith Baines stares across the water at a schooner, under full sail yet motionless in the winter wind and surging tide of the Northern Reach. Edith seems to be hallucinating. Or is she? Edith's boat-watch opens *The Northern Reach*, set in the coastal town of Wellbridge, Maine, where townspeople squeeze a living from the perilous bay or scrape by on the largesse of the summer folk and whatever they can cobble together, salvage, or grab. At the center of town life is the Baines family, land-rich, cash-poor descendants of town founders, along with the ne'er-do-well Moody clan, the Martins of Skunk Pond, and the dirt farming, bootlegging Edgecombs. Over the course of the twentieth century, the families intersect, interact, and intermarry, grappling with secrets and prejudices that span generations, opening new wounds and reckoning with old ghosts. W. S. Winslow's *The Northern Reach* is a breathtaking debut about the complexity of family, the cultural legacy of place, and the people and experiences that shape us.

*My Jim* Dec 10 2020 A deeply moving recasting of one of the most controversial characters in American literature, *Huckleberry Finn's Jim* Written in the great literary tradition of novels of American slavery, *My Jim* is told in the incantatory voice of Sadie Watson, an ex-slave who schools her granddaughter with lessons of love she learned in bondage. To help her granddaughter confront the decisions she needs to make, Sadie mines her memory for the tale of the unquenchable love of her life, Jim. Sadie's Jim was an ambitious young slave and seer who, when faced with the prospect of being sold, escaped down the Mississippi with a white boy named Huck. Sadie is suddenly left alone. Worried about her children, convinced her husband is dead, reviled as a witch, and punished for Jim's escape, Sadie's will and her love for Jim, even in absentia, animate her life and see her through. Told with spare eloquence and mirroring the true stories of countless slave women, *My Jim* re-creates one of the most controversial characters in American literature. A nuanced critique of the great American novel, *My Jim* stands on its own as a haunting and inspiring story about freedom, longing, and the remarkable endurance of love.

*The Whole Five Feet* Aug 18 2021 This unique memoir of reading the classics to find strength and wisdom "makes an elegant case for literature as an everyday companion" (*The New York Times Book Review*). While undergoing a series of personal and family crises, Christopher Beha discovered that his grandmother had used the Harvard Classics—the renowned "five foot shelf" of great world literature compiled in the early twentieth century by Charles William Eliot—to educate herself during the Great Depression. He decided to follow her example and turn to this series of great books for answers—and recounts the experience here, in a smart, big-hearted, and inspirational mix of memoir and intellectual excursion that "definitely illustrates how books can save one's life" (Helen Schulman). "As he grapples with the death of his beloved aunt, a debilitating case of Lyme disease, and other major and minor calamities, Beha finds that writers as diverse as Wordsworth, Pascal, Kant, and Mill had been there before, and that the results of their struggles to find meaning in life could inform his own."—*The Seattle Times* "An important book [and] a sheer blast to read."—Heidi Julavits

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