

The Giants House

Elizabeth Mccracken

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Heft Liz Moore 2012-01-23 An obese former academic shut-in and a poor kid dreaming of a successful baseball career are linked together by a former student who transforms their lives in this novel from the author

of *The Words of Every Song*. 20,000 first printing.

Lonesome Animals Bruce Holbert 2013-05-14 In *Lonesome Animals*, Arthur Strawl, a tormented former lawman, is called out of retirement to hunt a serial killer with a sense of the macabre who has been leaving elaborately carved bodies of Native Americans across three counties. As the pursuit ensues, Strawl's own dark and violent history weaves itself into the hunt, shedding light on the remains of his broken family: one wife taken by the river, one by his own hand; an adopted Native American son who fancies himself a Catholic prophet; and a daughter, whose temerity and stoicism contrast against the romantic notions of how the west was won. In the vein of *True Grit* and *Blood Meridian*, *Lonesome Animals* is a western novel reinvented, a detective story inverted for the west. It contemplates the nature of story and heroism in the face of a collapsing ethos –not only of Native American culture, but also of the first wave of white men who, through the battle against the geography and its indigenous people, guaranteed their own destruction. But it is also about one man's urgent, elegiac search for justice amidst the craven acts committed on the edges of civilization.

An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination
Elizabeth McCracken 2010-02-22 "This is the happiest story in the world with the saddest ending," writes Elizabeth McCracken in her powerful, inspiring memoir. A prize-winning, successful novelist in her

30s, McCracken was happy to be an itinerant writer and self-proclaimed spinster. But suddenly she fell in love, got married, and two years ago was living in a remote part of France, working on her novel, and waiting for the birth of her first child. This book is about what happened next. In her ninth month of pregnancy, she learned that her baby boy had died. How do you deal with and recover from this kind of loss? Of course you don't--but you go on. And if you have ever experienced loss or love someone who has, the company of this remarkable book will help you go on. With humor and warmth and unfailing generosity, McCracken considers the nature of love and grief. She opens her heart and leaves all of ours the richer for it.

The Possibility of Now Kim Culbertson 2016-01-26 Kim Culbertson is back with another fantastic new novel about what happens when you've been planning for the future, but everything falls apart now.

Bowlaway Elizabeth McCracken 2019-02-05 A sweeping and enchanting new novel from the widely beloved, award-winning author Elizabeth McCracken about three generations of an unconventional New England family who own and operate a candlepin bowling alley From the day she is discovered unconscious in a New England cemetery at the turn of the twentieth century—nothing but a bowling ball, a candlepin, and fifteen pounds of gold on her person—Bertha Truitt is an enigma to everyone in Salford, Massachusetts. She has no past to speak of,

or at least none she is willing to reveal, and her mysterious origin scandalizes and intrigues the townspeople, as does her choice to marry and start a family with Leviticus Sprague, the doctor who revived her. But Bertha is plucky, tenacious, and entrepreneurial, and the bowling alley she opens quickly becomes Salford's most defining landmark—with Bertha its most notable resident. When Bertha dies in a freak accident, her past resurfaces in the form of a heretofore-unheard-of son, who arrives in Salford claiming he is heir apparent to Truitt Alleys. Soon it becomes clear that, even in her death, Bertha's defining spirit and the implications of her obfuscations live on, infecting and affecting future generations through inheritance battles, murky paternities, and hidden wills. In a voice laced with insight and her signature sharp humor, Elizabeth McCracken has written an epic family saga set against the backdrop of twentieth-century America. *Bowlaway* is both a stunning feat of language and a brilliant unraveling of a family's myths and secrets, its passions and betrayals, and the ties that bind and the rifts that divide.

Trust Hernan Diaz 2022-05-03 LONGLISTED FOR THE 2022 BOOKER PRIZE "Buzzy and enthralling ...A glorious novel about empires and erasures, husbands and wives, staggering fortunes and unspeakable misery...Fun as hell to read." —Oprah Daily "A genre-bending, time-skipping story about New

York City's elite in the roaring '20s and Great Depression."—Vanity Fair "A riveting story of class, capitalism, and greed." —Esquire "Captivating."—NPR "Exhilarating." —New York Times An unparalleled novel about money, power, intimacy, and perception Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? This is the mystery at the center of *Bonds*, a successful 1937 novel that all of New York seems to have read. Yet there are other versions of this tale of privilege and deceit. Hernan Diaz's *TRUST* elegantly puts these competing narratives into conversation with one another—and in tension with the perspective of one woman bent on disentangling fact from fiction. The result is a novel that spans over a century and becomes more exhilarating with each new revelation. At once an immersive story and a brilliant literary puzzle, *TRUST* engages the reader in a quest for the truth while confronting the deceptions that often live at the heart of personal relationships, the reality-warping force of capital, and the ease with which power can manipulate facts.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas Hunter S. Thompson

2010-09-29 50th Anniversary Edition • With an introduction by Caity Weaver, acclaimed New York Times journalist This cult classic of gonzo journalism is the best chronicle of drug-soaked, addle-brained, rollicking good times ever committed to the printed page. It is also the tale of a long weekend road trip that has gone down in the annals of American pop culture as one of the strangest journeys ever undertaken. Also a major motion picture directed by Terry Gilliam, starring Johnny Depp and Benicio del Toro.

House of Stone: A Novel Novuyo Rosa Tshuma 2019-01-29 Pulsing with wit, seduction, and dark humor, House of Stone is a masterful debut that explores the creative—and often destructive—act of history-making. In the chronic turmoil of modern Zimbabwe, Abednego and Agnes Mlambo's teenage son, Bukhosi, has gone missing, and the Mlambos fear the worst. Their enigmatic lodger, Zamani, seems to be their last, best hope for finding him. Since Bukhosi's disappearance, Zamani has been preternaturally helpful: hanging missing posters in downtown Bulawayo, handing out fliers to passersby, and joining in family prayer vigils with the flamboyant Reverend Pastor from Agnes's Blessed Anointings church. It's almost like Zamani is part of the family... But almost isn't nearly enough for Zamani. He ingratiates himself with Agnes and feeds alcoholic Abednego's addiction, desperate to extract their life stories and steep himself in borrowed family history, as keenly aware as any colonialist or power-

mad despot that the one who controls the narrative inherits the future. As Abednego wrestles with the ghosts of his past and Agnes seeks solace in a deep-rooted love, their histories converge and each must confront the past to find their place in a new Zimbabwe. Pulsing with wit, seduction, and dark humor, *House of Stone* is a sweeping epic that spans the fall of Rhodesia through Zimbabwe's turbulent beginnings, exploring the persistence of the oppressed in a young nation seeking an identity, but built on forgetting.

Human Oddities Noria Jablonski 2005 A collection of short works focuses on a central theme of the human body as a landscape, in a volume that relates the experiences of such characters as separated conjoined twins, drag queens, and hospital orderlies. A first collection. Original.

The Narrow Door Paul Lisicky 2016-01-19 In *The Narrow Door*, Paul Lisicky creates a compelling collage of scenes and images drawn from two long-term relationships, one with a woman novelist and the other with his ex-husband, a poet. The contours of these relationships shift constantly. Denise and Paul, stretched by the demands of their writing lives, drift apart, and Paul's romance begins to falter. And the world around them is frail: environmental catastrophes like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, natural disasters like the earthquake in Haiti, and local disturbances make an unsettling backdrop to the pressing concerns

of Denise's cancer diagnosis and Paul's impending breakup. Lisicky's compassionate heart and resilience seem all the stronger in the face of such searing losses. His survival--hard-won, unsentimental, authentic--proves that in turning toward loss, we embrace life.

A Lie Someone Told You about Yourself Peter Ho Davies 2021 When does sorrow turn to shame? When does love become labor? When does chance become choice? And when does fact become fiction?

Animal Wife Lara Ehrlich 2020-09-08 In this award-winning debut collection, fifteen magical realism stories portray girls and women searching for an escape from their everyday lives. "In villages where women bore most of the weight of a constricted life, witches flew by night on broomsticks," said Italo Calvino of the way imagination bridges the gap between everyday existence and an idealized alternative . . . The fifteen stories of Animal Wife are unified by girls and women who cross this threshold seeking liberation from family responsibilities, from societal expectations, from their own minds. A girl born with feathers undertakes a quest for the mother who abandoned her. An indecisive woman drinks Foresight, only to become stymied by the futures branching before her. A proofreader cultivates a cage-fighting alter ego. A woman becomes psychologically trapped in her car. A girl acts on her desire for a childhood friend as a monster draws closer to the shore. A widow invites a

bear to hibernate in her den . . . Animal Wife was selected as the winner of the Red Hen Fiction Award by New York Times– bestselling author Ann Hood, who says, “From the first sentence Animal Wife grabbed me and never let go. Sensual and intelligent, with gorgeous prose, it made me dizzy with its exploration and illumination of the inner and outer lives of girls and women.” Praise for Animal Wife “Whimsy and fantasy meet the way things really turn out in stories from a strong new voice.” —Kirkus Reviews “Strange, funny, fearsome, Animal Wife is a gorgeous book, weird in its very bones.” —Elizabeth McCracken, author of Bowlaway: A Novel “Lara Ehrlich has written a collection of stories that allow for escapism.” —F(r)iction “I was particularly intrigued by the way Lara beautifully portrays the inner struggle between wildness and domesticity, the surreal elements of each story lending a mythical complexity to these conflicts. Really lovely and thought-provoking. Perfect for fans of Aimee Bender, Karen Russell, and Angela Carter.” —Joy Baglio, founder of Pioneer Valley Writer’s Workshop

Equal Love Peter Ho Davies 2000 A collection of short stories examines the imbalance of love between parents and children and the changing roles of the generations.

Barefoot Dogs Antonio Ruiz-Camacho 2015-03-10 This collection of intertwined short stories follows the members of a wealthy family in Mexico City as they

disperse across the globe, facing heartbreak and financial ruin, after their patriarch is kidnapped by shady underworld forces.

Ship Fever: Stories Andrea Barrett 1996-11-17 A collection of stories that consider the struggles of love and science includes the title work, in which a young Canadian doctor, treating Irish immigrants who have been driven out by the Great Famine, experiences one of history's most tragic epidemics

An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination Elizabeth McCracken 2008-09-10 "This is the happiest story in the world with the saddest ending," writes Elizabeth McCracken in her powerful, inspiring memoir. A prize-winning, successful novelist in her 30s, McCracken was happy to be an itinerant writer and self-proclaimed spinster. But suddenly she fell in love, got married, and two years ago was living in a remote part of France, working on her novel, and waiting for the birth of her first child. This book is about what happened next. In her ninth month of pregnancy, she learned that her baby boy had died. How do you deal with and recover from this kind of loss? Of course you don't--but you go on. And if you have ever experienced loss or love someone who has, the company of this remarkable book will help you go on. With humor and warmth and unfailing generosity, McCracken considers the nature of love and grief. She opens her heart and leaves all of ours the richer for it.

Panorama City Antoine Wilson 2012-09-25 "As

enjoyable a comic novel as I have read all year, a coming of age story that vividly captures the modern world through innocent eyes.” —Largehearted Boy

Oppen Porter thinks he’s dying. (He’s not.) From his hospital bed, with tape recorder in hand, he unspools his tale for the benefit of his unborn son, the tale of his forty-day journey from innocence to experience, from self-described “slow absorber” to man of the world. What follows is a trip through modern-day southern California that establishes Panorama City as “an astonishing narrative that offers the pleasures of irony without the sting . . . The great triumph of the book is that Oppen matures without spoiling. He comes to affirm the integrity of his innocence, which is its own wisdom” (Los Angeles Review of Books). “Makes you see the world afresh . . . delightful.” —The New York Times Book Review “Often very funny. It is filled with joy and wonder, and a sort of goodness you had stopped believing might even be possible.” —Peter Carey, Booker Prize–winning author “Though it takes place in down-at-heel Panorama City with its crappy burger franchises and abandoned shopping carts, *The World According to Oppen* is full of wonders and mysteries.” —Stewart O’Nan, national bestselling author “Charming, absurd, very funny, and best of all, human through and through.” —Paul Harding, Pulitzer Prize–winning author “Antoine Wilson draws us into the weird, wonderful world of Oppen Porter, whose advice and lessons are jarringly original, funny, and

moving.” —Steve Hely, winner of the Thurber Award
Venus of Chalk Susan Stinson 2004 "Take the trip of a lifetime with Carline, a home economist and woman-of-size, Tucker, a bus driver, and Mel, a retiree, as they journey from Massachusetts to Texas to unload an old city bus. In the process, these friends also leave behind their preconceived notions about one other, drop their inhibitions and become fully who they were meant to be."--PUBLISHER.

Carnivore Diet: A Novel Julia Slavin 2006-08-17 A wildly imaginative tragicomedy about a fantastical animal on the prowl and its affection for one troubled family. Wendy Dunleavy is desperately trying to hold her family together. But with her politician husband in prison for corruption and her son, Dylan, the former child actor, running unsupervised through the orderly avenues of northwest Washington, she may not have enough muscle for the task. And that's before the first sighting of the mysterious chagwa, a famished and unruly menace that not only breaks up the all-important Beltway soirees but also seems to have intentions toward Dylan. Life might be easier if she weren't addicted to sedatives like the rest of the frightened population. Life might be easier if it weren't always a diet of misery, hilarity, longing, and surprise in a nation of hucksters, self-deluding lobbyists, and pundits. Known for her "haunting and inventive" storytelling (Harper's Bazaar), her laugh-out-loud repartee, and her surreal transfigurations of the

commonplace, Julia Slavin has unleashed a hilarious and disturbing tale where the reach of fantasy is as long as the arm of the federal government. Reading group guide included.

The Year of Magical Thinking Joan Didion 2007-02-13
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • From one of America's iconic writers, a stunning book of electric honesty and passion that explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage—and a life, in good times and bad—that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child. Several days before Christmas 2003, John Gregory Dunne and Joan Didion saw their only daughter, Quintana, fall ill with what seemed at first flu, then pneumonia, then complete septic shock. She was put into an induced coma and placed on life support. Days later—the night before New Year's Eve—the Dunes were just sitting down to dinner after visiting the hospital when John Gregory Dunne suffered a massive and fatal coronary. In a second, this close, symbiotic partnership of forty years was over. Four weeks later, their daughter pulled through. Two months after that, arriving at LAX, she collapsed and underwent six hours of brain surgery at UCLA Medical Center to relieve a massive hematoma. This powerful book is Didion's attempt to make sense of the “weeks and then months that cut loose any fixed idea I ever had about death, about illness ... about marriage and children and memory ... about the

shallowness of sanity, about life itself.

The Vintage and the Gleaning Jeremy Chambers 2010-

08-02 The Vintage and the Gleaning is set in a winemaking town in the north-east of Victoria, close to the Murray River. Smithy is a retired shearer turned vineyard worker who has recently been forced to give up drinking after a lifetime of alcoholism. In his new sobriety he is contemplating the world in which he lives and the man he has been and become with a new understanding. Assaulted by long forgotten memories, Smithy is forced to take stock of his own past.

Overwhelmed with feelings of regret, guilt, loss and nostalgia for the past, Smithy is trapped in a blind search for meaning as he realises that he cannot undo the repercussions of his wasted life. He is a desperate and lonely old man seeking beauty in an ugly world. Living in the same town is Charlotte, a young woman in a dangerous relationship, whose misfortunes have led her into an uneasy friendship with Smithy. It is in his confused and ultimately futile attempts to help Charlotte that he seeks redemption.

Robinson Crusoe at the Waterpark: A Short Story from the collection, Reader, I Married Him Elizabeth

McCracken 2016-04-21 A short story by Elizabeth McCracken from the collection Reader, I Married Him: Stories inspired by Jane Eyre.

Permanent Visitors Kevin Moffett 2006-09-01 Settled amid the seasonal amusements and condominium-lined beaches of the Florida coast, the characters who

inhabit Kevin Moffett's award-winning stories reach out of their lives to find that something unexpected and mysterious has replaced what used to be familiar. Some are stalled in the present, alone or lonely, bemused by mortality and disappointment. Some move toward the future heartened by what they learn from those around them--a tattoo artist, an invented medicine man, zoo animals, strangers, fellow outsiders. Deftly rendered, these stories abound with oddness and grace. In "Tattooizm," included in *The Best American Short Stories 2006*, a young woman struggles with a promise that her boyfriend is determined to make her keep. In the Nelson Algren Award-winning "Space," a reluctantly undertaken errand forces a young man to finally confront the death of his mother. And in "The Medicine Man," hailed by the *Times* (U.K.) as "perfectly pitched and perfectly written," a man recounts his manic attachment to his sister. Moffett's closely observed stories are candid and complex, funny and moving. The world of *Permanent Visitors* is an idiosyncratic and generous one, its inhabitants searching for constancy in a place crowded with contradiction.

Rise and Shine Anna Quindlen 2006-10-24 From Anna Quindlen, acclaimed author of *Blessings*, *Black and Blue*, and *One True Thing*, a superb novel about two sisters, the true meaning of success, and the qualities in life that matter most. It's an otherwise ordinary Monday when Meghan Fitzmaurice's perfect life hits a

wall. A household name as the host of Rise and Shine, the country's highest-rated morning talk show, Meghan cuts to a commercial break—but not before she mutters two forbidden words into her open mike. In an instant, it's the end of an era, not only for Meghan, who is unaccustomed to dealing with adversity, but also for her younger sister, Bridget, a social worker in the Bronx who has always lived in Meghan's long shadow. The effect of Meghan's on-air truth telling reverberates through both their lives, affecting Meghan's son, husband, friends, and fans, as well as Bridget's perception of her sister, their complex childhood, and herself. What follows is a story about how, in very different ways, the Fitzmaurice women adapt, survive, and manage to bring the whole teeming world of New York to heel by dint of their smart mouths, quick wits, and the powerful connection between them that even the worst tragedy cannot shatter.

A Thousand Years of Good Prayers Yiyun Li 2007-12-18 Brilliant and original, A Thousand Years of Good Prayers introduces a remarkable new writer whose breathtaking stories are set in China and among Chinese Americans in the United States. In this rich, astonishing collection, Yiyun Li illuminates how mythology, politics, history, and culture intersect with personality to create fate. From the bustling heart of Beijing, to a fast-food restaurant in Chicago, to the barren expanse of Inner Mongolia, A Thousand Years of Good Prayers reveals worlds both foreign and

familiar, with heartbreaking honesty and in beautiful prose. "Immortality," winner of The Paris Review's Plimpton Prize for new writers, tells the story of a young man who bears a striking resemblance to a dictator and so finds a calling to immortality. In "The Princess of Nebraska," a man and a woman who were both in love with a young actor in China meet again in America and try to reconcile the lost love with their new lives. "After a Life" illuminates the vagaries of marriage, parenthood, and gender, unfolding the story of a couple who keep a daughter hidden from the world. And in "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers," in which a man visits America for the first time to see his recently divorced daughter, only to discover that all is not as it seems, Li boldly explores the effects of communism on language, faith, and an entire people, underlining transformation in its many meanings and incarnations. These and other daring stories form a mesmerizing tapestry of revelatory fiction by an unforgettable writer.

The Souvenir Museum Elizabeth McCracken 2021-04-13
LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD AND THE STORY PRIZE
Award-winning author Elizabeth McCracken is an undisputed virtuoso of the short story, and this new collection features her most vibrant and heartrending work to date. In these stories, the mysterious bonds of family are tested, transformed, fractured, and fortified. A recent widower and his adult son ferry to a craggy Scottish island in

search of puffins. An actress who plays a children's game-show villainess ushers in the New Year with her deadbeat half brother. A mother, pining for her children, feasts on loaves of challah to fill the void. A new couple navigates a tightrope walk toward love. And on a trip to a Texas water park with their son, two fathers each confront a personal fear. With sentences that crackle and spark and showcase her trademark wit, McCracken traces how our closely held desires—for intimacy, atonement, comfort—bloom and wither against the indifferent passing of time. Her characters embark on journeys that leave them indelibly changed—and so do her readers. The Souvenir Museum showcases the talents of one of our finest contemporary writers as she tenderly takes the pulse of our collective and individual lives.

The Little Paris Bookshop Nina George 2015

Prescribing books that offer therapeutic benefits to his customers, a literary apothecary in a floating bookstore on the Seine struggles with private heartbreak before embarking on a journey of healing at the side of a blocked writer and a lovelorn chef. Reading-group guide available.

The Turner House Angela Flournoy 2015-04-14

Learning that after a half-century of family life that their house on Detroit's East Side is worth only a fraction of its mortgage, the members of the Turner family gather to reckon with their pasts and decide the house's fate.

A first novel. 20,000 first printing.

The Giant's House Elizabeth McCracken 1997-07-01

Befriending an adolescent boy who is ostracized for his unusual height, bereft Cape Cod librarian Peggy Cort finds a soulmate in James and comes to love him as he grows into a man of eight feet

The Hero of This Book Elizabeth McCracken 2022-10-

04 A taut, bighearted new novel from bestselling and award-winning author Elizabeth McCracken about a daughter's relationship with her larger-than-life mother—and all that is left behind as one generation moves to the next Over the course of one weekend in London, a woman, “trying to decide what I thought about my life,” winds up wrestling with the memory of her mother. Her mother—who had also loved to visit London--died ten months earlier, but her presence is in no way diminished by her death. In *The Hero of This Book*, Elizabeth McCracken tracks a daughter's relationship with her larger-than-life mother. At every turn the narrator is confronted by the past—remembered conversations, the days the two of them spent wandering through museums or going to the theater—playing alongside questions of the future: back in New England, the family home is now for sale, its considerable contents already winnowed. But the messy detritus of an ordinary life is not all that remains. Visiting familiar haunts, the woman recalls all that made her complicated mother extraordinary—her brilliant wit, her generosity, her unbelievable obstinacy,

her sheer will in seizing life despite serious physical ailments. The woman, a writer, finds herself wondering how her mother had endured. Even though she wants to respect her mother's nearly pathological sense of privacy, the woman must come to terms with whether making a chronicle of this remarkable life constitutes an act of love or betrayal. *The Hero of This Book* is a searing examination of grief and renewal, and of a deeply felt relationship between a child and her parents. What begins as a question of filial devotion ultimately becomes a lesson in what it means to write. At once comic and heartbreaking, with prose that delights at every turn, this is a novel of such piercing love and tenderness that we are reminded that art is what remains when all else falls away

Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry Elizabeth

McCracken 2019-02-05 The singular, enchanting debut story collection from Elizabeth McCracken, now back in print as part of Ecco's "Art of the Story" series, and with a new introduction from the author Called "astonishingly assured" by The Guardian, the nine stories that make up Elizabeth McCracken's debut story collection deal with oddball characters doing their very best to forge connections with those around them. In "It's Bad Luck to Die" a woman marries an older tattoo artist and finds comfort in agreeing to act as a canvas for his most elaborate work. "Some Have Entertained Angels, Unaware" follows a young girl as she comes face to face with a cast of eccentrics her

recently-widowed father has invited to live in their expansive but dilapidated home. And in the title story, a young man and his wife are perplexed when an outspoken old woman shows up on their doorstep for a visit, claiming to be a distant aunt, even though she can't be traced on a family tree. At once captivating and offbeat, *Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry* is a dazzling showcase of the early years of Elizabeth McCracken's prodigious talent.

Thunderstruck & Other Stories Elizabeth McCracken

2015-08-18 WINNER OF THE STORY PRIZE •

LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD •

NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE

YEAR BY NEWSDAY NAMED ONE OF THE BEST

BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post •

San Francisco Chronicle • O: The Oprah Magazine •

The Miami Herald • Publishers Weekly • Kirkus

Reviews Look for special features inside. Join the

Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and

more. From the author of the beloved novel *The*

Giant's House—finalist for the National Book

Award—comes a beautiful new story collection, her

first in twenty years. Laced through with the humor, the

empathy, and the rare and magical descriptive powers

that have led Elizabeth McCracken's fiction to be

hailed as "exquisite" (*The New York Times Book*

Review), "funny and heartbreaking" (*The Boston*

Globe), and "a true marvel" (*San Francisco Chronicle*),

these nine vibrant stories navigate the fragile space

between love and loneliness. In “Property,” selected by Geraldine Brooks for *The Best American Short Stories*, a young scholar, grieving the sudden death of his wife, decides to refurbish the Maine rental house they were to share together by removing his landlord’s possessions. In “Peter Elroy: A Documentary by Ian Casey,” the household of a successful filmmaker is visited years later by his famous first subject, whose trust he betrayed. In “The Lost & Found Department of Greater Boston,” the manager of a grocery store becomes fixated on the famous case of a missing local woman, and on the fate of the teenage son she left behind. And in the unforgettable title story, a family makes a quixotic decision to flee to Paris for a summer, only to find their lives altered in an unimaginable way by their teenage daughter’s risky behavior. In Elizabeth McCracken’s universe, heartache is always interwoven with strange, charmed moments of joy—an unexpected conversation with small children, the gift of a parrot with a bad French accent—that remind us of the wonder and mystery of being alive. *Thunderstruck & Other Stories* shows this inimitable writer working at the full height of her powers. Praise for *Thunderstruck & Other Stories* “Restorative, unforgettable . . . a powerful testament to the scratchy humor and warm intelligence of McCracken’s writing.”—Sylvia Brownrigg, *The New York Times Book Review* (Editor’s Choice) “[A] bewitching and wise collection . . . playful, even

joyful.”—O: The Oprah Magazine “Stunningly beautiful . . . brilliantly moving . . . Moments of joy and pure magic flicker and pitch-perfect humor acts as a furtive SOS signal through the fog of loss.”—Los Angeles Times “Each of Thunderstruck’s nine stories is a storm: delightful and destructive, packed with electricity, fascinating to watch unfold.”—Salon “The stories here are brilliant, funny and heartbreaking. . . . Elizabeth McCracken is a national treasure.”—Paul Harding, The Wall Street Journal “Pure delight: one lyrical, impeccably constructed sentence after another.”—Chicago Tribune “Beautifully wrought . . . As painstaking as a watchmaker, McCracken disassembles life down to its smallest parts.”—The Boston Globe

Magic & Madness in the Library Eric Graeber 1999
Classic fiction and "finds" on real and imagined libraries through the minds of Cervantes, Voltaire, Borges, Woolf, Bradbury, King, Eco, Irving, Huxley and more.

Criss Cross Lynne Rae Perkins 2010-11-16 Winner of the Newbery Medal • New York Times Bestseller • An ALA Notable Book • An ALA Best Book for Young Adults • School Library Journal Best Book • Booklist Editors’ Choice • Kirkus Reviews Editors’ Choice • Horn Book Fanfare Book • New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age In this acclaimed, award-winning, and timeless national bestseller, Newbery Medalist Lynne Rae Perkins explores the crisscrossing

lives of four teenagers on the verge of adulthood. The unique format incorporates short vignettes, haiku, Q&As, and illustrations by the author. Written with love and humor, *Criss Cross* is an unforgettable story of friendship, family, and growing up. “It’s hard to write a book this good. Lynne Rae Perkins makes it seem easy.”—Kevin Henkes, *New York Times*—bestselling author of the Newbery Honor Books *Olive’s Ocean* and *The Year of Billy Miller* “Brilliantly captures the adolescent-level Zen that thoughtful kids bring to their assessment of the world.”—*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred review) “Best of all are the understated moments, often private and piercing in their authenticity, that capture intelligent, likable teens searching for signs of who they are, and who they’ll become.”—*ALA Booklist* (starred review) “Written with humor and modest bits of philosophy, the writing sparkles with inventive, often dazzling metaphors.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review) “Like a lazy summer day, the novel induces that exhilarating feeling that one has all the time in the world.”—*The Horn Book* (starred review) “A gentle story about a group of childhood friends facing the crossroads of life and how they wish to live it. Young teens will certainly relate.”—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

The Giant's House Elizabeth McCracken 2013-01-31
'Every so often a novel comes along which transcends whimsy with the beauty of its writing. Elizabeth McCracken's small masterpiece is one of these'

Guardian A powerful and unique story about connection, showing that miracles can happen – even across a library circulation desk. The year is 1950, and in a small town on Cape Cod twenty-eight year old librarian Peggy Cort feels as if love and life have stood her up. That is, until the day James Carlson Sweatt – the 'over-tall' eleven year old boy who's the talk of the town – walks into her library and changes her life for ever. Two misfits whose lonely paths cross at the circulation desk, Peggy and James are odd candidates for friendship. In James, Peggy discovers the one person who's ever really understood her, and as he grows – six foot five at age twelve, then seven foot, then eight – so does their most singular romance.

Perfect for readers who loved Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

You Remind Me of Me Dan Chaon 2005 A tale of the impact of circumstance and fate on identity follows the interconnected lives of a little boy who is attacked by his mother's dog, a pregnant teenager who admits herself to a maternity home, a young man who considers a drug-dealing career, and a child who disappears from his grandmother's backyard. By the author of *Among the Missing*. Reader's Guide included. Reprint. 40,000 first printing.

Niagara Falls All Over Again Elizabeth McCracken 2002-11-26 By turns graceful and knowing, funny and moving, *Niagara Falls All Over Again* is the latest masterwork by National Book Award finalist and author

of *The Giant's House*, Elizabeth McCracken. Spanning the waning years of vaudeville and the golden age of Hollywood, *Niagara Falls All Over Again* chronicles a flawed, passionate friendship over thirty years, weaving a powerful story of family and love, grief and loss. In it, McCracken introduces her most singular and affecting hero: Mose Sharp — son, brother, husband, father, friend ... and straight man to the fat guy in baggy pants who utterly transforms his life. To the paying public, Mose Sharp was the arch, colorless half of the comedy team Carter and Sharp. To his partner, he was charmed and charming, a confirmed bachelor who never failed at love and romance. To his father and sisters, Mose was a prodigal son. And in his own heart and soul, he would always be a boy who once had a chance to save a girl's life — a girl who would be his first, and greatest, loss. Born into a Jewish family in small-town Iowa, the only boy among six sisters, Mose Sharp couldn't leave home soon enough. By sixteen Mose had already joined the vaudeville circuit. But he knew one thing from the start: "I needed a partner," he recalls. "I had always needed a partner." Then, an ebullient, self-destructive comedian named Rocky Carter came crashing into his life — and a thirty-year partnership was born. But as the comedy team of Carter and Sharp thrived from the vaudeville backwaters to Broadway to Hollywood, a funny thing happened amid the laughter: It was Mose who had all the best lines offstage. Rocky would go through

money, women, and wives in his restless search for love; Mose would settle down to a family life marked by fragile joy and wrenching tragedy. And soon, cracks were appearing in their complex relationship ... until one unforgivable act leads to another and a partnership begins to unravel. In a novel as daring as it is compassionate, Elizabeth McCracken introduces an indelibly drawn cast of characters — from Mose's Iowa family to the vagabond friends, lovers, and competitors who share his dizzying journey — as she deftly explores the fragile structures that underlie love affairs and friendships, partnerships and families. An elegiac and uniquely American novel, *Niagara Falls All Over Again* is storytelling at its finest — and powerful proof that Elizabeth McCracken is one of the most dynamic and wholly original voices of her generation.

Good Riddance Elinor Lipman 2019-02-05 The delightful new romantic comedy from Elinor Lipman, in which one woman's trash becomes another woman's treasure, with deliriously entertaining results. Daphne Maritch doesn't quite know what to make of the heavily annotated high school yearbook she inherits from her mother, who held this relic dear. Too dear. The late June Winter Maritch was the teacher to whom the class of '68 had dedicated its yearbook, and in turn she went on to attend every reunion, scribbling notes and observations after each one--not always charitably--and noting who overstepped boundaries of many kinds. In a fit of decluttering (the yearbook did not,

Daphne concluded, "spark joy"), she discards it when she moves to a small New York City apartment. But when it's found in the recycling bin by a busybody neighbor/documentary filmmaker, the yearbook's mysteries--not to mention her own family's--take on a whole new urgency, and Daphne finds herself entangled in a series of events both poignant and absurd. *Good Riddance* is a pitch-perfect, whip-smart new novel from an "enchanted, infinitely witty yet serious, exceptionally intelligent, wholly original, and Austen-like stylist" (Washington Post).

The Interloper Antoine Wilson 2011-11-29 A novel about obsession that makes for obsessive reading. All Owen Patterson wants is a normal life, a happy marriage, and a stable family. But following the brutal and random murder of his brother-in-law, that dream is shattered. A year later, his wife is still in mourning and his in-laws won't talk about anything but their dead son. The murderer, Henry Joseph Raven, has been put in prison, but as far as Owen is concerned, prison isn't punishment enough. He embarks on a quest to "balance the scales of justice," writing letters to Henry Raven under the pseudonym Lily Hazelton. His plan: to seduce the murderer, make him fall in love with his fictional correspondent, and then break his heart. From one letter to the next, Lily Hazelton develops into a curious amalgam of details from Owen's imagination, snatches of his difficult childhood, and memories of his cousin Eileen, a suicide who was his first true love. Not

entirely in control of his own creation, Owen dives headfirst into the correspondence, only to find himself caught in the trap he's set for Henry Raven. Bringing together an epistolary game of cat and mouse with the harrowing record of one man's psychological collapse, *The Interloper* is a compelling and original debut from a bold new writer. "As assured and sumptuously written as any first novel I've encountered—Antoine Wilson's prose sings, and the story he tells here is both clever and compelling. This is writing at its very best." — T. Coraghessan Boyle

Upstream
Melissa Lion 2009-04-02
Marty's small town in Alaska is the most beautiful place in the world. There she and her beloved boyfriend, Steven, can walk through fields of fireweed, explore the wild, and tie pink floozy fishing lures to catch the salmon that swim upstream. But when she starts her senior year, Marty must return to school by herself. Without Steven. Something happened during the summer that changed things forever. It's a small town and people are starting to talk; Marty can feel their stares and hear their whispers. But they weren't there and they don't know. Only Marty knows what really happened, and it's something she must never, ever tell.