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When Death Takes Something from You Give It Back
A memoir by Naja Marie Aidt
Translated by Denise Newman

An unflinchingly raw and lyrical exploration of a mother’s grief and how it transforms her relationship to time, reality, and language.

In March 2015, Naja Marie Aidt’s twenty-five-year-old son, Carl, died in a tragic accident. This book chronicles the few first years after that devastating phone call. It is at once a sober account of life after losing a child and an exploration of the language of poetry, loss, and love. Intensely moving, When Death Takes Something from You Give It Back explores what it is to be a family and what it is to treasure life in spite of death’s indomitable resolve.

2019 Kirkus Prize in Nonfiction Finalist
2019 National Book Award for Translated Literature Longlist
2020 PEN Translation Award Longlist

“A stunning evocation of life. . . . Aidt’s memoir is like broken glass, the shattered pieces singular in their form but each glistening, ready to cut.”
—LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS

NAJA MARIE AIDT was born in Greenland and raised in Copenhagen. She is the author of eleven collections of poetry, a novel, and three short story collections, including Baboon, which won the 2008 Nordic Council Literature Prize. Her work has been translated into sixteen languages.

DENISE NEWMAN is a translator and poet who has published three collections of poetry. Her translation of Naja Marie Aidt’s short-fiction collection Baboon won the 2015 PEN Translation Prize.
Trafik
A novel by Rikki Ducornet

From the singularly inventive mind of Rikki Ducornet, Trafik is a buoyant voyage through outer space and inner longing, transposing human experiences of passion, loss, and identity into a post-Earth universe.

Quiver, a mostly-human astronaut, takes refuge from the monotony of harvesting minerals on remote asteroids by running through a virtual reality called the Lights, chasing visions of an elusive red-haired beauty. Her high-strung robot partner, Mic, pilots their Wobble and entertains himself by surfing the records of the obliterated planet Earth stored on his Swift Wheel for Al Pacino trivia, recipes for reconstructed sushi, and high fashion trends. But when an accident destroys their cargo, Quiver and Mic go rogue, setting off on a madcap journey through outer space toward an idyllic destination: the planet Trafik.

PRAISE FOR RIKKI DUCORNET:

“Ducornet is a novelist of ambition and scope.” —THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Linguistically explosive. . . . One of the most interesting American writers around.” —THE NATION

“Pick up a book by the award-winning Ducornet, and you know it will be startling, elegant, and perfectly formed.” —LIBRARY JOURNAL

RIKKI DUCORNET is a poet, writer, and artist. Her fiction has been translated into fifteen languages and her art has been exhibited internationally. Her awards include an Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Bard College Arts and Letters Award, the Prix Guerlain, a Critics’ Choice Award, and the Lannan Literary Award for Fiction. Her novel The Jade Cabinet was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.
Echo Tree
Stories by Henry Dumas
Edited by Eugene B. Redmond
New Introduction by John Keene

African futurism, gothic romance, ghost story, parable, psychological thriller, inner-space fiction—Dumas’s stories form a vivid, expansive portrait of Black life in America.

Henry Dumas’s fabulist fiction is a masterful synthesis of myth and religion, culture and nature, mask and identity, the present and the ancestral. From the Deep South to the simmering streets of Harlem, his characters embark on real, magical, and mythic quests. Humming with life, Dumas’s stories create a collage of mid-twentieth-century Black experiences, interweaving religious metaphor, African cosmologies, diasporic folklore, and America’s history of slavery and systemic racism.

“Dumas completed work, the quality and quantity of which are almost never achieved in several lifetimes. . . . He was brilliant.”
—TONI MORRISON

HENRY DUMAS was born in Arkansas in 1934 and grew up in Harlem. After serving in the air force, he worked for IBM and in academia, all while active in the civil rights movement. At the age of thirty-three, he was killed by a Transit Authority police officer.

JOHN KEENE chairs the department of African American and African Studies and teaches English and creative writing at Rutgers University–Newark. He is the author of Counternarratives.

EUGENE B. REDMOND was named poet laureate of East St. Louis in 1976. He taught alongside Henry Dumas at Southern Illinois University (East St. Louis), where he is currently an emeritus professor of English. Since 1968, he has edited and helped publish most of Dumas’s poetry and fiction.
A Complex Sentence
Poetry by Marjorie Welish

In A Complex Sentence, Marjorie Welish builds immersive intertextual environments as she questions the canon of modernist poetry and the ways we talk about poetics.

In her sixth collection with Coffee House, Welish continues to explore rhetorical practices, such as diagramming, inscription, and quotation, to call our attention to literary acts—from finding the right desk to getting lost at logic gates—yet all the while following the mental circuitry of dismantling and re-assembling a poetic language. Expertly manipulating the space of the page, her poems dissolve the boundaries between visual art and the written word. With her signature precision, musicality, and structural rigor, Welish turns the lyric poem into a critical instrument with which to think about the writer’s calling, through the specifics of language and literature.

PRAISE FOR MARJORIE WELISH:

“Welish’s writing is marked by the legacies of multiple modernisms and by sly misprisions and recursions, an obsession with logical forms that flip abruptly into their shadow selves.” —BOMB

MARJORIE WELISH has received fellowship support from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and St. Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge. For her arts and critical practice, she has received a Fulbright Senior Scholarship, which has taken her to the University of Frankfurt and to the Edinburgh College of Art. Papers delivered on her arts practices at a conference at the University of Pennsylvania are compiled in Of the Diagram: The Work of Marjorie Welish. Signifying Art: Essays on Art after 1960 is a book of her art criticism. A Work, and . . ., in which she is interviewed by Lilly Wei, is the most extensive catalogue of her art.

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HOMES
Poetry by Moheb Soliman

Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior: HOMES. Moheb Soliman traces the coasts of the Great Lakes with postmodern poems, exploring the natural world, the experience of belonging, and the formation of identity along borders.

Moheb Soliman’s HOMES maps the shoreline of the Great Lakes from the rocky North Shore of Minnesota to the Thousand Islands of eastern Ontario. This poetic travelogue offers an intimate perspective on an immigrant experience as Soliman drives his Corolla past exquisite vistas and abandoned mines, through tourist towns and midwestern suburbs, seeking to inhabit an entire region as home. Against the backdrop of environmental destruction and a history of colonial oppression, the vitality of Soliman’s language brings a bold ecopoetic lens to bear on the relationship between transience and belonging in the world’s largest, most porous borderland.

FROM HOMES:

Today it’s “voyager” / foggy out / wolfing white / doughnuts and creamer at an Indian-Canadian motel lobby till / check out / of life; the shoreline; time / always just enough to squander / map the long wrong way put your back into the view / watch the road and mind / one’s own / “journey” / is a humiliating word / to spirit off; to mean to; to have so much extra- / vagance / who pulls up their roots and runs

MOHEB SOLIMAN is an interdisciplinary poet from Egypt and the Midwest. He has presented work at diverse literary, art, and public spaces in the US and Canada. Moheb has degrees from The New School and the University of Toronto and lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was the program director for the Arab American literary journal and arts organization Mizna.
Variations on the Body
Stories by María Ospina
Translated by Heather Cleary

A constellation of short stories illustrate the intersecting lives of women on various peripheries of society in and around Bogotá, Colombia.

In six subtly connected stories, Variations on the Body explores the obsessions, desires, and idiosyncrasies of women and girls from different strata of Colombian society. A former FARC guerilla fighter adjusts to urban life and faces the new violence of an editor co-opting her experiences. A woman adrift in the city she left as a child looks for someone to care for, even if it has to be by force, while another documents a flea infestation with a catalog of the marks on her flesh. A little girl copes with her anxiety about the adult world by exacting revenge on her nanny, who she thinks belongs to her. Combining humor, heartbreak, and unexpected violence, Ospina constructs a keen reflection on the body as a simultaneous vehicle of connection and alienation in vibrant, gleaming prose.

MARÍA OSPINA was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and teaches Latin American culture at Wesleyan University. She has written about memory, violence, and culture in contemporary Colombia. Her stories have appeared in anthologies in Colombia and Italy. Azares del cuerpo, her first book of fiction, has been published in Colombia, Chile, Spain, and Italy.

HEATHER CLEARY’s translations include Betina González’s American Delirium, Roque Larraquy’s Comemadre (nominee, National Book Award for Translated Literature 2018), and Sergio Chejfec’s The Planets (finalist, Best Translated Book Award 2013) and The Dark (nominee, National Translation Award 2014). A member of the Cedilla & Co. translation collective and a founding editor of the digital, bilingual Buenos Aires Review, she teaches at Sarah Lawrence College.
The Glassy, Burning Floor of Hell
Stories by Brian Evenson

“Here is how monstrous humans are.”

A sentient, murderous prosthetic leg; shadowy creatures lurking behind a shimmering wall; brutal barrow men—of all the terrors that populate The Glassy, Burning Floor of Hell, perhaps the most alarming are the beings who decimated the habitable Earth: humans. In this new short story collection, Brian Evenson envisions a chilling future beyond the Anthropocene that forces excruciating decisions about survival and self-sacrifice in the face of toxic air and a natural world torn between revenge and regeneration. Combining psychological and ecological horror, each tale thrums with Evenson’s award-winning literary craftsmanship, dark humor, and thrilling suspense.

PRAISE FOR BRIAN EVENSON:

“Evenson is one of our best living writers—regardless of genre.” —NPR

“Evenson’s fiction is equal parts obsessive, experimental, and violent. It can be soul-shaking.” —THE NEW YORKER

“You’ve heard of ‘postmodern’ stories—well, Evenson’s stories are post-everything. They are post-human, post-reason, post-apocalyptic. . . . In an Evenson story, there are two horrible things that can happen to you. You can either fail to survive, or survive.” —THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRIAN EVENSON is the author of over a dozen works of fiction. His most recent, Song for the Unraveling of the World, won a Shirley Jackson Award and was a finalist for both the Los Angeles Times Ray Bradbury Prize for Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Speculative Fiction and the Balcones Fiction Prize. He lives in Los Angeles and teaches at CalArts.
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