

Great Reads for Fall 2014

Belzhar
By Meg Wolitzer
Dutton Books for Young Readers

Her keen eye for issues of gender, sex and relationships makes Wolitzer's "grown-up" novels marvels of social observation. That holds true for her young-adult novel that centers on a misfit teen mourning her boyfriend's death. Sent to a boarding school for troubled-but-bright kids, she receives an English assignment that transports her to a mysterious otherworld in which she can relive her trauma and, should she choose, become reconciled.

The Paying Guests
By Sarah Waters
Riverhead Books

The bestselling Welsh author of *Tipping the Velvet* writes mostly about lesbian relationships, historic England or dramatic old houses, and her latest novel, a suspenseful story of love and loss in 1920s South London, hews to all three.

How to Build a Girl
By Caitlin Moran
Ebury Press

When Johanna Morrigan embarrasses herself on local television, she does what any humiliated teen would do: morphs into a chain-smoking, sex-obsessed rebel and goes to work for a music magazine. In this

debut novel, the feminist author of the uproariously funny half-memoir, half-polemic *How to Be a Woman* captures the pain, excitement and possibility that accompanies adolescence.

The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books
By Azar Nafisi
Viking

In a follow-up to her acclaimed *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Nafisi, an Iranian exile, weaves memoir and literary analysis into a persuasive argument for curiosity and an open mind. In this intensely political book, she lifts classic works of American fiction—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Babbitt* and *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*—out of the high school classroom and into the challenges of everyday life.

All About Skin: Short Fiction by Women of Color
Edited by Jina Ortiz and Rochelle Spencer
University of Wisconsin Press

This anthology of work by contemporary women of color, including ZZ Packer, Patricia Engel, Ramola D, Xu Xi and Jennine Capó, redresses the dearth of published short fiction by marginalized women. Their stories, exploring such themes as colorism, interracial dating and racial micro-aggressions, are a testament to the imagination and talent emerging from outside the mainstream.

All My Puny Sorrows
By Miriam Toews
McSweeney's

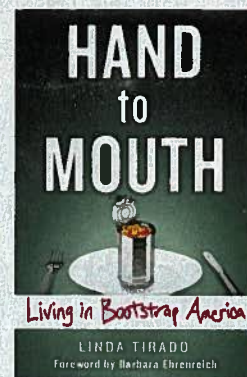
The beloved Canadian author draws deeply from her own upbringing to detail the relationship between two sisters raised in a Mennonite household who, as adults, took different paths. Despite professional and familial success, Elfrieda is contemplating suicide, leaving Yolandi, divorced and broke, to hold their extended family together.

Into the Go-Slow
By Bridgett M. Davis
The Feminist Press

Davis' allegory-as-novel is a negotiation between moving forward and remembering the past. Four years after her older sister died in Nigeria in 1984, Angie leaves her tedious retail job in an American mall for the frenetic streets of Lagos. Retracing her sister's final steps, she discovers her own racial, sexual and social identity.

Comradely Greetings: The Prison Letters of Nadya and Slavoj
By Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Slavoj Žižek
Verso

A founding member of the performance-art group Pussy Riot, "Nadya" Tolokonnikova served nearly two years in prison for publicly critiquing Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Orthodox Church. While



imprisoned, she carried on an elegant and feisty correspondence with Žižek, a prominent Slovenian Marxist philosopher, in which the two intellectuals shared their experiences and beliefs about social disruption.

Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America
Linda Tirado
Amy Einhorn Books

Tirado, who has described herself as "a completely average American with two kids and two jobs," exploded onto the media scene in 2013 when her Gawker post, "Why I Make Terrible Decisions, or, Poverty Thoughts," went viral. In *Hand to Mouth*, she uses her piercing insight, coupled with a confessional but unrepentant voice, to open a nuanced and deeply unsettling window into poverty in the U.S.

Babygate: How to Survive Pregnancy & Parenting in the Workplace
Dina Bakst, Phoebe Taubman and Elizabeth Gedmark
The Feminist Press

This handbook, compiled by three attorneys at A Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center, takes readers step by step toward success in America's often-treacherous world of working motherhood. Offering flow charts on how and when to announce a pregnancy, examples of legally explicit doctor's notes for workplace accommodations

and state-by-state guides on maternal legal protection in the workplace, this is a critical resource for women contemplating a baby.

A Cup of Water Under My Bed
By Daisy Hernández
Beacon Press

Hernández's memoir traces her life as a Colombian-Cuban American bisexual, straightforwardly addressing the struggles of women with multiple identities and the lessons she learned about race, sex, gender, class and love. With an emphasis on the relationships between family and identity, Hernández uses memories to reveal and examine her changing expectations and identities.

Books That Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal
Edited by Jennifer Cognard-Black and Melissa A. Goldthwaite
NYU Press

This delightful collection of prose, poetry and essays, all introduced by excerpts from important American cookbooks dating back to the 1700s, explores the way food reflects and creates culture. An important addition to the study of gastronomy, it features the work of such contemporary authors as Maya Angelou, Nora Ephron and Alice Waters, and is organized like a cookbook, with each section including at least one delectable recipe.

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women shouldn't suffer from discrimination anymore



unwomen.org



10

"Suppose an employer's sincerely held belief is offended by health coverage of vaccines, or paying the minimum wage...?"

—RUTH BADER GINSBURG'S HOBBY LOBBY DISSENT



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Students march through Isla Vista, Calif., after a young man's hate-filled murderous rampage.

LEFT: CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP PHOTO; RIGHT: MONICA ALMEIDA/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REXUS

UP FRONT

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- 8 KEEPING SCORE

NEWS

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When personal-care products aren't regulated, women's health is put at risk.
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BY MICHELE KORT
Molested by their coaches, unprotected by their sport's leaders, women athletes are breaking the silence about sexual abuse.

THIS CLINIC STAYS OPEN.

Nationwide, women's reproductive healthcare providers are the targets of an orchestrated campaign of harassment and intimidation. Pro-choice mobilization is crucial to reducing anti-abortion violence and harassment. Learn how your adopt-a-clinic grassroots efforts can and will make a difference at www.feministcampus.org



 **FEMINIST MAJORITY**
FOUNDATION



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► Patreese Johnson spent six years in prison for trying to defend herself and friends from a homophobic assault.

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► Sor Juana's poetry

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LYRIC CABRAL

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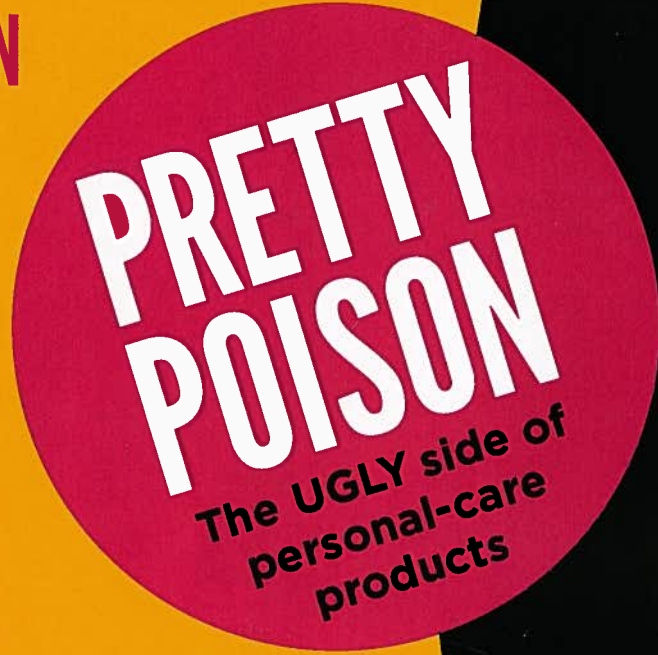
**NAMING OUR ANGER
#YESALLWOMEN**

**SEX ABUSE
& WOMEN ATHLETES**

**WAR, RAPE AND
ABORTIONS**

**ROBIN MORGAN ON
JILL ABRAMSON**

**JULIA ALVAREZ
THANKS SOR JUANA**



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