

# An Untamed State Roxane Gay

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An Untamed State Roxane Gay

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## RODGERS YOSEF

**Third person** Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

A Haitian American woman survives a brutal kidnapping in this “commanding debut novel” from the New York Times–bestselling author of *Bad Feminist* (The New Yorker). Author and essayist Roxane Gay is celebrated for her incisive commentary on identity and culture, as well as for her bestselling nonfiction and short story collections. Now, with *An Untamed State*, she delivers a “breathtaking debut novel” (The Guardian, UK) of wealth in the face of crushing poverty, and the lawless anger produced by corrupt governments. Mireille Duval Jameson is living a fairy tale. The strong-willed youngest daughter of one of Haiti’s richest sons, she lives in the United States with her adoring husband and infant son, returning every summer to stay on her father’s Port-au-Prince estate. But the fairy tale ends when Mireille is kidnapped in broad daylight by a gang of heavily armed men, just outside the estate walls. Held captive by a man who calls himself The Commander, Mireille waits for her father to pay her ransom. As her father’s standoff with the kidnappers stretches out into days, Mireille must endure the torments of a man who despises everything she represents. *An Untamed State* is a “breathless, artful, disturbing and original” story of a willful woman attempting to find her way back to the person she once was, and of how redemption is found in the most unexpected of places (Meg Wolitzer, author of *The Interestings*).

*Delicious Foods* Simon and Schuster

From the national bestselling author of *Brother, I’m Dying* and *The Dew Breaker*: a “fiercely beautiful” novel (Los Angeles Times) that brings us deep into the intertwined lives of a small seaside town where a little girl, the daughter of a fisherman, has gone missing. Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè—Claire of the Sea Light—suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed. In this stunning novel about intertwined lives, Edwidge Danticat crafts a tightly woven, breathtaking tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share—with the natural world and with one another.

**The Grammarians** Philistine Press

By the author of *Adrien Brody*, the controversial Internet piece, Marie Calloway effaces the boundary between life and narrative. *The Idea of You* Harper Collins

From Attica Locke, a writer and producer of FOX’s *Empire*: “The Cutting Season is a rare murder mystery with heft, a historical novel that thrills, a page-turner that makes you think. Attica

Locke is a dazzling writer with a conscience.”—Dolen Perkins-Valdez, New York Times bestselling author of *Wench* After her breathtaking debut novel, *Black Water Rising*, won acclaim from major publications and respected crime fiction masters like James Ellroy and George Pelecanos, Locke returns with *The Cutting Season*, a second novel easily as gripping and powerful as her first—a heart-pounding thriller that interweaves two murder mysteries, one on Belle Vie, a historic landmark in the middle of Louisiana’s Sugar Cane country, and one involving a slave gone missing more than one hundred years earlier. *Black Water Rising* was nominated for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize, an Edgar® Award, and an NAACP Image Award, and was short-listed for the Orange Prize in the U.K.

**Listen, Yankee!** W. W. Norton & Company

Based on unprecedented access to both Cuban and American officials, a book that offers fresh insight into one of history’s most enigmatic relationships between nation-states—from one of America’s best-known voices of political and social activism. *Listen, Yankee!* offers an account of Cuban politics from Tom Hayden’s unique position as an observer of Cuba and as a US revolutionary student leader whose efforts to mobilize political change in the US mirrored the radical transformation simultaneously going on in Cuba. Chapters are devoted to the writings of Che Guevara, Régis Debray, and C. Wright Mills; the Cuban missile crisis; the Weather Underground; the assassination of JFK; the strong historical links between Cuba and Africa; the Carter era; the Clinton era; the Cuban Five; Elián González; and the December 17, 2014 declaration of normalization by presidents Obama and Castro. Hayden puts the present moment into historical context, and shows how we’re finally finding common ground to the advantage of Cubans and Americans alike.

**What Purpose Did I Serve in Your Life** Ivy Kids

Held captive by her employers -- and by her own demons -- on a mysterious farm, a widow struggles to reunite with her young son in this uniquely American story of freedom, perseverance, and survival. Darlene, once an exemplary wife and a loving mother to her young son, Eddie, finds herself devastated by the unforeseen death of her husband. Unable to cope with her grief, she turns to drugs, and quickly forms an addiction. One day she disappears without a trace. Unbeknownst to eleven-year-old Eddie, now left behind in a panic-stricken search for her, Darlene has been lured away with false promises of a good job and a rosy life. A shady company named *Delicious Foods* shuttles her to a remote farm, where she is held captive, performing hard labor in the fields to pay off the supposed debt for her food, lodging, and the constant stream of drugs the farm provides to her and the other unfortunates imprisoned there. In *Delicious Foods*, James Hannaham tells the gripping story of three unforgettable

characters: a mother, her son, and the drug that threatens to destroy them. Through Darlene’s haunted struggle to reunite with Eddie, through the efforts of both to triumph over those who would enslave them, and through the irreverent and mischievous voice of the drug that narrates Darlene’s travails, Hannaham’s daring and shape-shifting prose infuses this harrowing experience with grace and humor. The desperate circumstances that test the unshakeable bond between this mother and son unfold into myth, and Hannaham’s treatment of their ordeal spills over with compassion. Along the way we experience a tale at once contemporary and historical that wrestles with timeless questions of love and freedom, forgiveness and redemption, tenacity and the will to survive.

*The Best American Short Stories 2018* Little, Brown

Winner Whiting Writers’ Award Winner Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence Finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction Finalist for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize Finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award Mitchell S. Jackson grew up black in a neglected neighborhood in America’s whitest city, Portland, Oregon. In the ‘90s, those streets and beyond had fallen under the shadow of crack cocaine and its familiar mayhem. In his commanding autobiographical novel, Mitchell writes what it was to come of age in that time and place, with a break-out voice that’s nothing less than extraordinary. *The Residue Years* switches between the perspectives of a young man, Champ, and his mother, Grace. Grace is just out of a drug treatment program, trying to stay clean and get her kids back. Champ is trying to do right by his mom and younger brothers, and dreams of reclaiming the only home he and his family have ever shared. But selling crack is the only sure way he knows to achieve his dream. In this world of few options and little opportunity, where love is your strength and your weakness, this family fights for family and against what tears one apart. Honest in its portrayal, with cadences that dazzle, *The Residue Years* signals the arrival of a writer set to awe.

**The Power Book** Harper Collins

A high-stakes heist thriller about the most daring and successful thieves in Chicago: three generations of women from the Banks family. For fifty years the women of the Banks family have been the most successful thieves in Chicago by following one simple rule: never get greedy. But when the youngest Banks stumbles upon the heist of a lifetime, the potential windfall may be enough to bring three generations of thieves together for one incredible score and the chance to avenge a loved one taken too soon. From NY Times bestselling writer Roxane Gay (*Hunger*; *Black Panther*) and artist Ming Doyle (*The Kitchen*). “The Banks is the best kind of heist story: a sharp, tight robbery with escalating tensions and threats coming from every direction.” - The A.V. Club “It will leave

most readers smiling at the end of their journeys with the Banks family." - The Beat

**An Untamed State** Hogarth

Diabolically funny and subversively philosophical, Italian novelist Giacomo Sartori's *I Am God* is the diary of the Almighty's existential crisis that erupts when he falls in love with a human. I am God. Have been forever, will be forever. Forever, mind you, with the razor-sharp glint of a diamond, and without any counterpart in the languages of men. So begins God's diary of the existential crisis that ensues when, inexplicably, he falls in love with a human. And not just any human, but a geneticist and fanatical atheist who's certain she can improve upon the magnificent creation she doesn't even give him the credit for. It's frustrating, for a god. God has infinitely bigger things to occupy his celestial attentions. Yet he can't tear his eyes (so to speak) from the geneticist who's unsettlingly avid when it comes to science, sex, and Sicilian cannoli. Whatever happens, he must safeguard his transcendental dignity. So he watches—disinterestedly, of course—as the handsome climatologist who has his sights set on her keeps having strange accidents. And as the lanky geneticist becomes hell-bent on infiltrating the Vatican's secret files, for reasons of her own.... A sly critique of the hypocrisy and hubris that underlie faith in religion, science, and macho careerism, *I Am God* takes us on a hilarious and provocative romp through the Big Questions with the universe's supreme storyteller.

**The Residue Years** National Geographic Books

A riveting tale of risk and obsession set in the alluring world of Macau's casinos, by the author of the critically acclaimed *The Forgiven*. As night falls on Macau and the neon signs that line the rain-slick streets come alive, Doyle - "Lord Doyle" to his fellow players - descends into his casino of choice to try his luck at the baccarat tables that are the anchor of his current existence. A corrupt English lawyer who has escaped prosecution by fleeing to the East, Doyle spends his nights drinking and gambling and his days sleeping off his excesses, continually haunted by his past. Taking refuge in a series of louche and dimly lit hotels, he watches his fortune rise and fall as the cards decide his fate. In a moment of crisis he meets Dao-Ming, an enigmatic Chinese woman who appears to be a denizen of the casinos just like himself, and seems to offer him salvation in the form of both money and love. But as Doyle attempts to make a rare and true connection, all that he accepts as reality seems to be slipping from his grasp. Resonant of classics by Dostoevsky and Graham Greene, *The Ballad of a Small Player* is a timeless tale steeped in eerie suspense and rich atmosphere.

**The Best American Short Stories 2012** Vintage

The world building of *Wakanda* continues in a love story where tenderness is matched only by brutality! You know them now as the Midnight Angels, but in this story they are just Ayo and Aneka, young women recruited to become Dora Milaje, an elite task force trained to protect the crown of *Wakanda* at all costs. Their first assignment will be to protect Queen Shuri... but what happens when your nation needs your hearts and minds, but you already gave them to each other? Meanwhile, former king T'Challa lies with bedfellows so dark, disgrace is inevitable. Plus, explore the true origins of the People's mysterious leader, Zenzi. Black Panther thinks he knows who Zenzi is and how she got her powers - but he only knows part of the story! COLLECTING: BLACK PANTHER: WORLD OF WAKANDA 1-6

*With Billie* Bloomsbury Publishing USA

"This book is something I wish I could have read when I was younger." --Roxane Gay, from the foreword of *Feminism Is...* It didn't just start with #MeToo. Today's feminism is more diverse than ever before and asks all kinds of questions. Combining insightful text with graphic illustrations, *Feminism Is...* tackles topics including intersectionality, the gender pay gap, the male gaze, and mansplaining. Find out what equality for women really means, get a short history of feminism, and take a look at the concerns affecting women at work, in the home, and around sex

and identity. Get answers to the big issues and meet some of the most groundbreaking feminists like Audre Lorde and bell hooks. Addressing ongoing feminist concerns and including an original foreword by Roxane Gay, *Feminism Is...* takes on important themes in informative, thought-provoking ways.

**Hunger** Simon & Schuster/ TED

Writers write—but what do they do for money? In a widely read essay entitled "MFA vs NYC," bestselling novelist Chad Harbach (*The Art of Fielding*) argued that the American literary scene has split into two cultures: New York publishing versus university MFA programs. This book brings together established writers, MFA professors and students, and New York editors, publicists, and agents to talk about these overlapping worlds, and the ways writers make (or fail to make) a living within them. Should you seek an advanced degree, or will workshops smother your style? Do you need to move to New York, or will the high cost of living undo you? What's worse—having a day job or not having health insurance? How do agents decide what to represent? Will Big Publishing survive? How has the rise of MFA programs affected American fiction? The expert contributors, including George Saunders, Elif Batuman, and Fredric Jameson, consider all these questions and more, with humor and rigor. *MFA vs NYC* is a must-read for aspiring writers, and for anyone interested in the present and future of American letters.

**The Selected Works of Audre Lorde** National Geographic Books

A definitive selection of Audre Lorde's "intelligent, fierce, powerful, sensual, provocative, indelible" (Roxane Gay) prose and poetry, for a new generation of readers. Self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet" Audre Lorde is an unforgettable voice in twentieth-century literature, and one of the first to center the experiences of black, queer women. This essential reader showcases her indelible contributions to intersectional feminism, queer theory, and critical race studies in twelve landmark essays and more than sixty poems—selected and introduced by one of our most powerful contemporary voices on race and gender, Roxane Gay. Among the essays included here are: "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" "I Am Your Sister" Excerpts from the American Book Award-winning *A Burst of Light* The poems are drawn from Lorde's nine volumes, including *The Black Unicorn* and National Book Award finalist *From a Land Where Other People Live*. Among them are: "Martha" "A Litany for Survival" "Sister Outsider" "Making Love to Concrete" **Black Panther: World of Wakanda** Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

Lionel Froad hopes to rediscover Lobo, his alter ego from ancestral times, while on an architectural survey in the horn of Africa. Instead, he finds himself having complex relationships between his filial, white boss and a stunning girl from Wales, both of whom distract him from his goal. Eventually, Lionel is forced to recognize the painful division between his New World self and ancestry as a result of slavery and centuries of separation.

**The Woman Who Lost Her Soul** Corsair

Presents twenty of the best works of short fiction of the past year from a variety of acclaimed sources. **The Ballad of a Small Player** Hachette UK *Be Safe I Love You* tells the story of Lauren Clay, a woman soldier returned from Iraq, and her beloved younger brother Danny, obsessed with Arctic exploration and David Bowie, whom she has looked out for since their mother left them years before. Lauren is home in time to spend Christmas with Danny and her father, who is delighted to have her back and reluctant to acknowledge that something feels a little strange. But as she reconnects with her small-town life in upstate New York, it soon becomes apparent that things are not as they should be. And soon an army psychologist is making ever-more frantic attempts to reach her. But Lauren has taken Danny on a trip upstate - to visit their mother, she says at first, although it becomes clear that her real destination is somewhere else entirely: a place beyond the glacial woods of Canada, where Lauren thinks her salvation

lies. But where, really, does she think she is going, and what happened to her in Iraq that set her on this quest? *Be Safe I Love You* is an exquisite and unflinching novel about war, its aftermath, and the possibility of healing.

**Other Leopards** Lacedwing Books

Mireille Duval Jameson is living a fairy tale. The strong-willed youngest daughter of one of Haiti's richest sons, she has an adoring husband, a precocious infant son, by all appearances a perfect life. The fairy tale ends one day when Mireille is kidnapped in broad daylight by a gang of heavily armed men, in front of her father's Port au Prince estate. Held captive by a man who calls himself The Commander, Mireille waits for her father to pay her ransom. As it becomes clear her father intends to resist the kidnappers, Mireille must endure the torments of a man who resents everything she represents. *An Untamed State* is a novel of privilege in the face of crushing poverty, and of the lawless anger that corrupt governments produce. It is the story of a willful woman attempting to find her way back to the person she once was, and of how redemption is found in the most unexpected of places. *An Untamed State* establishes Roxane Gay as a writer of prodigious, arresting talent.

**The Banks** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Bad Feminist*: a searingly honest memoir of food, weight, self-image, and learning how to feed your hunger while taking care of yourself. "I ate and ate and ate in the hopes that if I made myself big, my body would be safe. I buried the girl I was because she ran into all kinds of trouble. I tried to erase every memory of her, but she is still there, somewhere. . . . I was trapped in my body, one that I barely recognized or understood, but at least I was safe." In her phenomenally popular essays and long-running Tumblr blog, Roxane Gay has written with intimacy and sensitivity about food and body, using her own emotional and psychological struggles as a means of exploring our shared anxieties over pleasure, consumption, appearance, and health. As a woman who describes her own body as "wildly undisciplined," Roxane understands the tension between desire and denial, between self-comfort and self-care. In *Hunger*, she explores her past—including the devastating act of violence that acted as a turning point in her young life—and brings readers along on her journey to understand and ultimately save herself. With the bracing candor, vulnerability, and power that have made her one of the most admired writers of her generation, Roxane explores what it means to learn to take care of yourself: how to feed your hungers for delicious and satisfying food, a smaller and safer body, and a body that can love and be loved—in a time when the bigger you are, the smaller your world becomes.

**The Cutting Season** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Proud of Their Heritage and Sustained by Their Faith, They Came to Tame a New Land She had promised herself that once they left the fjords of Norway, she would not look back. After three long years of scrimping and saving to buy tickets for their passage to America, Roald and Ingeborg Bjorklund, along with their son, Thorliff, finally arrive at the docks of New York City. It was the promise of free land that fed their dream and lured them from their beloved home high above the fjords of Norway in 1880. Together with Roald's brother Carl and his family, they will build a good life in a new land that promises untold wealth and vast farmsteads for their children. As they join the throngs of countless immigrants passing through Castle Garden, they soon discover that nothing is as they had envisioned it. Appalled by the horrid stories of fellow immigrants bilked of all their money and forced to live in squalid living conditions, the Bjorklunds continue their long journey by train as far as Grand Forks. From there a covered wagon takes them into Dakota Territory, where they settle on the banks of the Red River. But there was no way for them to foresee the price they will have to pay to wrest a living from the indomitable land. The virgin prairie refuses to yield its treasure without a struggle. Will they be strong enough to overcome the hardships of that first winter?