

LAURA VALERI

The
kind
of
things
saints
do



The Kind Of Things Saints Do The John Simmons Short Fiction Award

Ryan Harty



The Kind Of Things Saints Do The John Simmons Short Fiction Award:

The Kind of Things Saints Do Laura Valeri, 2005-04 From the Anglo American woman who makes a spectacle of herself trying to be Cuban in Miami to the estranged son leading his father on a hostile hike in New Mexico Valeri's characters carry a heavy load of desire and anger Proud loud and hungry for whatever comes next each person desperately searches for an understanding that lessens his or her burden The saints here are pure only in their anger desperation and desire to be loved holy only in their quest to keep going These stories grow through subtle shifts the bad becomes not so bad the worst livable It is the saintly moments of unexpected understanding that shape the collection one gigolo's lover picks up another at a bus stop and they agree on his worthlessness the love worn man reminds the newly divorced woman of her physical power the estranged son shelters his father from an unexpected storm Valeri navigates the reader through the bones and scars of those who ache with wanting something else and become a little older and a little wiser for it The Kind of Things Saints Do is a collection of human imperfections and missed connections that grows into a kaleidoscope of aspiration and hope

Her Kind of Want Jennifer S. Davis, 2002-08-21 Set mainly in the small towns of Alabama the stories in Her Kind of Want ache with the relentless longing of the poor struggling usually discarded southern women who tell us their lives lives that seem to revolve around men whose only presence is their absence Bebe Luna Melly Little Lula Dena These are just a few of the women we meet in Jennifer Davis's award winning collection Women who married too fast had children too young and drink too much Yet beneath their unpolished exteriors these women are flesh and blood and their wants and needs are as severe and deep as any Davis's characters relate their stories in voices as complex and raw as their southern environment Each tale may sound slightly familiar an unwanted pregnancy a fast car flying down a country road but Davis moves beyond the familiar stories of the rural South to expose the gaps that connect these women creating startlingly real and vibrant characters Although often bleak and sometimes disturbing Her Kind of Want is a celebration of southern people their perseverance their spirit and their determination to make the ugly beautiful

[Here Beneath Low-Flying Planes](#) Merrill Feitell, 2004-10 The stories in Merrill Feitell's award winning collection Here Beneath Low Flying Planes examine the fleeting and unexpected moments of human connection reminding us of the indelible impact we have on one another no matter how insignificant or anonymous we might feel under our huge collective sky Feitell's characters deal with shifting dynamics in relationships whether they be best friends lovers family or even strangers that consistently leave them torn between two places or commitments In the title story Janie has undergone a painful childbirth experience and her group of friends must pioneer new dynamics while she wonders how to bring her old self back In Bike New York amid thirty thousand cyclists a man on the brink of marriage meets a young girl who in a tiny Brooklyn bakery affirms both who he has been and who he is going to be On this short detour from normal life he comes to understand the funny thing about finding your way in the world There was a place laid out for you and even as you stepped into it happy for the chance to rest you wondered how you ever

ended up there Funny big hearted and deft Here Beneath Low Flying Planes navigates the reader through the life that happens when you re planning other things It is a collection of experiences roads not taken and the intense and unforeseen sparks of connection we hope for

The Thin Tear In The Fabric Of Space Douglas Trevor,2005-10-01 The Thin Tear in the Fabric of Space gathers stories about coping with grief trying to love people who have died and more broadly leaving old versions of the self behind sometimes by choice and sometimes out of necessity In each of the nine stories Douglas Trevor s characters are forced to face uncomfortable realities For Elena Gavrushnekov in the title story that means admitting after the death of her beloved that she still longs for contact with other human bodies For Peter in Central Square it is realizing that like his deceased father before him he is drinking himself to death Unable to confront his incapacitated mother and the memory of the plane crash that killed his father Edwin Morris in Saint Francis in Flint is compelled to acknowledge that his saintly aspirations are not what they appear to be while Sharon Mackaney in The Surprising Weight of the Body s Organs struggles with uncontrollable outbursts of rage in the wake of her young son s death In moments of great pain and loss when self expression seems impossible and terribly useless the characters in these stories nonetheless discover the tenderness of others In The River the narrator finds that the friendship he has forged with a French girl with whom he can only just communicate has bred intense almost intuitive compassion while in Fellowship of the Bereaved the disconsolate brother of the deceased sister who occupies the empty center of the story uncovers not only anger in his parents but also empathy and humor As these characters persevere in their own lives they do so mindful of and humanized by the experiences of having seen people they know and love slip unexpectedly into the thin tear in the fabric of space that quiet chasm that so resolutely separates the living from the dead

This Day in History Anthony Varallo,2009-09 On the verge of maturity where parents are distant or absent friendships are often more accidental than deliberate and restless angst is common Anthony Varallo s adolescent protagonists dissect the world and their place in it with keen perception This Day in History deftly collects their moments of discovery There s a feeling I get whenever I enter an unfamiliar house as if a secret inventory has been handed to me and I am made to understand that the sofa cushions are stained underneath the coffee table nursing one gimp leg the books along the bookcase stolen from summer rental and the dining room table used only for Christmas and taxes the narrator confesses in the first of Varallo s twelve stories Here a birthday party for an unpopular classmate reveals an adult world both familiar and utterly strange In subsequent stories a young girl longs to be a part of her best friend s family only to discover the family is less than ideal two sisters recall the childhood houses they grew up and apart in places inseparable from each woman s notion of the other and a mother and son set off on a bold and hopeless errand their suburban neighborhood momentarily transformed into a stage As these children stand on the brink of adulthood unsure how to move forward striving to make sense of the world around them they often discover that the distance between themselves and others is no nearly so great as first imagined Funny sad and hopeful Varallo s stories make a gentle argument for connection

and community and in doing so seek to extend our sympathy toward the world **Forthcoming Books** Rose Arny,2002
 American Book Publishing Record ,2003 *Poets & Writers* ,2002 **Bring Me Your Saddest Arizona** Ryan
Harty,2003 In the broad dry big sky land of Arizona a series of short stories unfold each one revolving around ordinary
characters who confront failing relationships mortality and the ever present reality of the desert **American Wives** Beth
Helms,2003 A military wife has an unexpected sexual encounter another woman s husband has an affair with her best friend
a young woman finds herself destined to repeat the patterns of her mother s infidelities As each woman seeks control of her
life hope and possibility are found

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Review of "**The Kind Of Things Saints Do The John Simmons Short Fiction Award**"

In some sort of defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their ability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**The Kind Of Things Saints Do The John Simmons Short Fiction Award**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound effect on the souls of its readers.

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