

SUMMER of MY

MIRIAM TOEWS

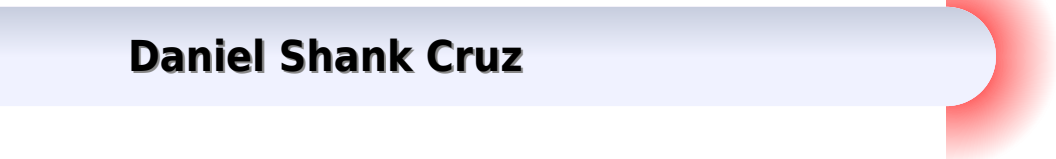
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'Toews debuts a career-
defining light touch with the
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Summer Of My Amazing Luck

Daniel Shank Cruz



Summer Of My Amazing Luck:

Summer of My Amazing Luck Miriam Toews, 2010-01-08 A Novel by the Governor General's Literary Award winning author of *A Complicated Kindness* Lucy Van Alstyne always thought she'd grow up to become a forest ranger. Instead, at the age of eighteen, she's found herself with quite a different job title: Single Mother on the Dole. As for the father of her nine-month-old son Dillinger, well, it could be any of number of guys. At the Have a Life housing project aptly nicknamed Half a Life by those who call it home, Lucy meets Lish, a zany and exuberant woman whose idea of fashion is a black beret with a big silver spider brooch stuck on it. Lish is the mother of four daughters: two by a man on welfare himself and twins from a one-week stand with a fire-eating busker who stole her heart and her wallet. Living on the dole isn't a walk in the park for Lucy, and Lish's dinner almost always consists of noodles. Transportation means pushing a crappy stroller through the rain. Then there are the condescending welfare agents with their dreaded surprise inspections. And just across the street is Serenity Place, another housing project with which Half a Life is engaged in a full-on feud. When the women aren't busy snitching on each other, they're spreading rumours or plotting elaborate acts of revenge. In the middle of a mosquito-infested rainy season, Lish and Lucy decide to escape the craziness of Half a Life by taking to the road. In a van held together with coat hangers and electrical tape and crammed to the hilt with kids and toys, they set off to Colorado in search of Lish's lost love and the father of her twins. Whether they'll find him is questionable, but the down-and-out adventure helps Lucy realize that this just may be the summer of her amazing luck. Miriam Toews's debut novel *Summer of My Amazing Luck* opens our eyes to a social class rarely captured in fiction. At once hilarious and heartbreaking, it is inhabited by an unforgettable and poignant group of characters. Shortlisted for both the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour, it also earned Miriam the John Hirsch Award for the Most Promising Manitoba Writer. *Summer of My Amazing Luck* Miriam Toews, 2019-04-09 A memorable portrait of a struggling young person who finds unexpected resilience and peace. Hilarious, heartbreaking, and poignant. Booklist. From the author of *Women Talking*, now an Academy Award-winning film starring Claire Foy, Rooney Mara, Frances McDormand, and Jessie Buckley, Miriam Toews welcomes her readers to the Have a Life housing project, better known as Half a Life. The welfare regulations are endless, and the rate-fink neighbors won't mind their own business. Lucy Van Alstyne sends fictitious letters to her friend Alicia, pretending to be the father of Alicia's twins. When the two mothers and their five children set off on a journey to find him, facing along the way the complications of living in poverty and raising fatherless children, Lucy discovers this just may be the summer of her amazing luck. **Summer of My Amazing Luck** Miriam Toews, 2019-04-09 A memorable portrait of a struggling young person who finds unexpected resilience and peace. Hilarious, heartbreaking, and poignant. Booklist. Miriam Toews welcomes her readers to the Have a Life housing project, better known as Half a Life. The welfare regulations are endless, and the rate-fink neighbors won't mind their own business. Lucy Van Alstyne sends fictitious letters to her friend Alicia, pretending to be the father of

Alicia's twins When the two mothers and their five children set off on a journey to find him facing along the way the complications of living in poverty and raising fatherless children Lucy discovers this just may be the summer of her amazing luck

Ethics for Apocalyptic Times Daniel Shank Cruz, 2023-11-21 Ethics for Apocalyptic Times is about the role literature can play in helping readers cope with our present day crises including the COVID 19 pandemic climate change and the shift toward fascism in global politics Using the lens of Mennonite literature and their own personal experience as a culturally Mennonite queer Latinx person Daniel Shank Cruz investigates the age old question of what literature's role in society should be and argues that when we read literature theapoetically we can glean a relational ethic that teaches us how to act in our difficult times In this book Cruz theorizes theapoetics a feminist reading strategy that reveals the Divine via literature based on lived experiences and extends the concept to show how it is queer decolonial and equally applicable to secular and religious discourse Cruz's analysis focuses on Mennonite literature including Sofia Samatar's short story collection Tender and Miriam Toews's novel Women Talking but also examines a non Mennonite text Samuel R Delany's novel The Mad Man alongside practices of haiku and tarot to show how reading theapoetically is transferable to other literary traditions Weaving together close reading and personal narrative this pathbreaking book makes a significant and original contribution to the field of Mennonite literary studies Cruz's arguments will also be appreciated by literary scholars interested in queer theory and the role of literature in society

Summer of My Amazing Luck Chris Craddock, 2007 Summer of My Amazing Luck is the story of Lucy and Lish two single mothers who live in the Winnipeg housing project Have a Life Lucy says she didn't grieve properly when her mother was murdered and tried to fill her emptiness with sexual encounters instead When she became pregnant she couldn't really say who the father of her child was Now Lucy and her infant son Dill are in Have a Life trying to survive in the welfare system Her best friend Lish has her own troubles She pines for Gotcha the street performer who stole her heart along with her wallet So Lucy decides to bring Gotcha back in a series of postcards But maybe Lucy's made it too real When Lish gets a postcard telling her Gotcha is heading to Denver she decides they have to find him They set out in a beat up old borrowed van full of toys and kids With all the humour compassion and intelligence of Miriam Toews novel this inventive stage adaptation takes audiences on a hilarious and heartbreaking journey as Lucy discovers that this may be the summer when everything changes

Lives Lived, Lives Imagined Sabrina Reed, 2022-11-04 Perceptive controversial topical and achingly funny Miriam Toews's books have earned her a place at the forefront of Canadian literature In this first monograph on Toews's work Sabrina Reed examines the interplay of trauma and resilience in the author's fiction Reed skillfully demonstrates how Toews situates resilience across key themes including the home as both a source of trauma and an inspiration for resilient action the road trip as a search for resolution and redemption and the reframing of the Mennonite diaspora as an escape from patriarchal oppression The deaths by suicide of Toews's father and sister stand out as the most shocking and tragic of the author's biographical details and Reed explores Toews's use of

autofiction as a reparative gesture in the face of this trauma Written in an accessible style that will appeal to both scholars and devotees of Toews's work *Lives Lived Lives Imagined* is a timely examination of Toews's oeuvre and a celebration of fiction's ability to simultaneously embody compassion and anger joy and sadness and to brave the personal and communal oppressions of politics religion family society and mental illness

Queering Mennonite Literature

Daniel Shank Cruz, 2019-01-27 Though the terms queer and Mennonite rarely come into theoretical or cultural contact over the last several decades writers and scholars in the United States and Canada have built a body of queer Mennonite literature that shifts these identities into conversation In this volume Daniel Shank Cruz brings this growing genre into a critical focus bridging the gaps between queer theory literary criticism and Mennonite literature Cruz focuses his analysis on recent Mennonite authored literary texts that espouse queer theoretical principles including Christina Penner's *Widows of Hamilton House* Wes Funk's *Wes Side Story* and Sofia Samatar's *Tender* These works argue for the existence of a queer Mennonite identity on the basis of shared values a commitment to social justice a rejection of binaries the importance of creative approaches to conflict resolution and the practice of mutual aid especially in resisting oppression Through his analysis Cruz encourages those engaging with both Mennonite and queer literary criticism to explore the opportunity for conversation and overlap between the two fields By arguing for engagement between these two identities and highlighting the aspects of Mennonitism that are inherently queer Cruz gives much needed attention to an emerging subfield of Mennonite literature This volume makes a new and important intervention into the fields of queer theory literary studies Mennonite studies and religious studies

Cherokee Summer Susan Antony, 2019-01-21 When Ace leaves home to spend the summer in Cherokee North Carolina the last thing she expects to find is a boyfriend until she meets Cherokee Tribe member John Spears As Ace and John's friendship blossoms they find their life experiences mirror each other and they fall in love Despite hurdles thrown by well meaning family members and jealous frenemies the star crossed lovers remain committed to their mutual belief that the universe has drawn them together However when Ace sends John a strange text and then suddenly disappears the two must rely on their trust in each other to save both their lives and their love

A Vintage Summer Cathy Bramley, 2019-03-21 A sparkling summer story full of secrets and surprises The city has not been kind to Lottie Allbright it's time to cut and run But when she packs up to move back home she finds her family in disarray In desperate need of a new place to stay Lottie takes a live in job managing a local vineyard There's a lot to learn especially as Butterworth Wines which has always been run on love and passion has been rocked by a tragic death Widowed Betsy is trying to keep the place afloat while hiding a debilitating secret Meanwhile her handsome but interfering grandson Jensen is trying to convince her to sell up and move into a home Lottie's determined to save Butterworth Wines and Betsy but with an unpredictable summer to deal with it'll be a challenge And that's before she discovers something that will turn her summer and her world upside down The perfect heartwarming romance to curl up with this winter for fans of Debbie Macomber and Kristan Higgins Readers are falling in

love with A VINTAGE SUMMER A fun summer story I loved everything about it I loved it and could not put it down This book made me smile lots and taught me a lot about wine making too It s a great summer read for sure *University of Toronto Quarterly* University of Toronto,1997

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