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Contributors' Notes

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BRIAN BLANCHFIELD is the author of three books of poetry and prose, most recently *Proxies: Essays Near Knowing*. Recipient of the Academy of American Poets' James Laughlin Award and a Whiting Award in Nonfiction, he lives now in Missoula, where he is a professor of creative writing at the University of Montana. He is also a member of the core faculty at Bennington Writing Seminars.

RYAN BRADLEY is a journalist, editor, and essayist who frequently contributes to the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and *The New York Times Magazine*. He has won a Los Angeles Press Club award for feature writing and been nominated for a National Magazine Award. He lives in Los Angeles.

JASON BROWN is the author of three collections of short stories, including *A Faithful but Melancholy Account of Several Barbarities Lately Committed.* He is writing a memoir called *Character Witness*.

JUNG HAE CHAE is a Korean American writer. Her work has appeared in *Agni, Crazyhorse, Guernica, Ploughshares*, and elsewhere, and has been anthologized in the 2019 Pushcart Prize Collection. Most recently, she won the 2021 Crazyhorse Prize in Nonfiction and the 2019 Emerging Writers Contest in Nonfiction from *Ploughshares*. Her work has been supported by scholarships and fellowships from New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Idyllwild Arts Foundation, Monson Arts, Sewanee Writers Conference, Squaw Valley Writers Conference, and others. Currently, she is at work on a memoir that explores the matrilineal *han* in the Korean diaspora.

ANDREA LONG CHU is the book critic at New York magazine. Her nonfiction book Females was a finalist for the 2019 Lambda Literary Award in

Transgender Nonfiction. Her writing has appeared in n+1, New York, The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, Artforum, Bookforum, Boston Review, Chronicle of Higher Education, 4Columns, The Drift, and Jewish Currents. She lives in Brooklyn.

MELISSA FEBOS is the bestselling author of four books, most recently, *Girlhood*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism, and *Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative*. She is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, Lambda Literary, the Barbara Deming Foundation, the Black Mountain Institute, and others. She is an associate professor at the University of Iowa.

CALVIN GIMPELEVICH is the author of the short story collection *Invasions*. His essays and stories have appeared in *Ploughshares, Kenyon Review, Electric Literature*, and *Them*. He is the winner of a 2022 NEA Fellowship in prose and a recipient of Lambda Literary's Judith A. Markowitz award, in addition to grants and fellowships from Artist Trust, Jack Straw Cultural Center, 4Culture, and Seattle's Office of Arts & Culture. He was born in San Francisco.

KAITLYN GREENIDGE'S debut novel, We Love You, Charlie Freeman, was one of the New York Times critics' Top Ten Books of 2016 and a finalist for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. She is the features director at Harper's Bazaar and a contributing writer for the New York Times, and her writing has also appeared in Vogue, Glamour, the Wall Street Journal, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Whiting Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Libertie is her second novel.

DEBRA GWARTNEY is the author of two memoirs, *Live Through This*, finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *I Am a Stranger Here Myself*, winner of the River Teeth Nonfiction Prize. She is coeditor with her husband, Barry Lopez, of *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*. Her essay "Suffer Me to Pass," from *VQR*, was selected for a 2020 Pushcart Prize. Debra lives in western Oregon.

NAOMI JACKSON is the author of a novel, *The Star Side of Bird Hill.* Jackson studied fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She traveled to South Africa on a Fulbright scholarship, where she received an MA in creative writing from the University of Cape Town. She is a graduate of Williams College. Jackson's writings have appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, *Virginia Quarterly Review, Poets & Writers*, and *The Caribbean Writer*. She is the

recipient of residencies and fellowships from MacDowell Colony, Hedge-brook, Camargo Foundation, Bronx Council on the Arts, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Jackson is an assistant professor of English at Rutgers University–Newark. She lives in New York City with her family.

TANNER AKONI LAGUATAN is a surfer living with his little black dog in Laguna Beach, California. His piece in *The Best American Essays* 2022 is his first published essay. He is at work on a memoir about Hollywood, weed, and two hundred years of Filipino American family history.

AUBE REY LESCURE is a French-Chinese-American writer and deputy editor at Off Assignment. She is the coauthor of Creating a Stable Asia and the translator of the essay anthology Le Système Économique Chinois Face à ses Défis (制度改变中国). Her fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in Guernica, The Florida Review online, WBUR, Jellyfish Review, Entropy, and elsewhere. Her debut novel, about coming of age in Shanghai, will be published by HarperCollins in 2023.

ALEX MARZANO-LESNEVICH is the author of *The Fact of a Body: A Murder and a Memoir*, which received a Lambda Literary Award, the Chautauqua Prize, and awards in France and Canada. It was translated into eleven languages and is in development with HBO. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, Civitella Ranieri, and the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Marzano-Lesnevich has written for the *New York Times, Harper's Magazine, AGNI, Elle France*, and many other publications. They live in Portland, Maine, and are an assistant professor at Bowdoin College. Their next book, *Both and Neither*, about living beyond the binary, is forthcoming and was excerpted in *The Best American Essays 2020*.

LINA MOUNZER is a Lebanese writer and translator. She contributes regularly to the *New York Times* and her work has appeared in *The Paris Review, The Economist,* and *The Baffler,* as well as in the anthologies *Hikayat: Short Stories by Lebanese Women* and *Tales of Two Planets.* During 2021, she wrote a monthly column for the Lebanese daily *L'Orient Today,* chronicling social changes in the wake of the country's economic collapse.

JESUS QUINTERO read his first work of fiction at the age of twenty-one (Michael Chabon's *Wonder Boys*, because of the cover's jumping, candy-apple-green '64 Impala and the possibility that it might be about gangs). He received his MFA in creative writing from the University of San Francisco. He is working on a memoir and teaches English and creative writing at De Anza College in the San Francisco Bay Area.

ELIAS RODRIQUES is a Jamaican writer currently based in New York. His first novel is *All the Water I've Seen Is Running*.

GARY SHTEYNGART is the author of numerous books, including the memoir *Little Failure* and the novels *Lake Success, Super Sad True Love Story*, and *Our Country Friends*.

ERIKA J. SIMPSON is a Southern girl living in Denver, Colorado, with her partner and cat. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Kentucky and is the recipient of the 2021 MFA Award in Nonfiction. Her greatest joy comes from birthday visits with her sister and loving on her niece. She is currently working on a memoir, as well as a black speculative fiction collection.

ANTHONY VEASNA SO (1992–2020) was a graduate of Stanford University and earned his MFA in fiction at Syracuse University. His writing has appeared in *The New Yorker, The Paris Review, n+1, Granta*, and *ZYZZYVA*. A native of Stockton, California, he taught at Colgate University, Syracuse University, and the Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants in Oakland, California.

ANGELIQUE STEVENS teaches creative writing, literature of genocide, and race literatures. Her nonfiction can be found in *Literary Hub, New England Review,* and *The Chattahoochee Review.* She holds an MFA in creative nonfiction from Bennington College and an MA from SUNY Brockport in literature. Her honors include an alumni fellowship from Bennington College's MFA program; fellowships from the Bread Loaf, Tin House, Sewanee, and Kenyon Review writers workshops; a fellowship to the inaugural cohort of the Periplus Collective; and a fellowship to the Lighthouse Writers Workshop Book Project. She is a founding member of the Straw Mat Writers Group and a member of the board of directors of Water for South Sudan. She finds inspiration in wandering—being in places that push the boundaries of comfort, experience, knowledge, and hunger.

JUSTIN TORRES is the author of the novel *We the Animals*, a national best-seller, which was adapted into a feature film. His stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times Image* magazine, and several other publications. He lives in Los Angeles, where he is an assistant professor of English at UCLA.

VAUHINI VARA is the author of *The Immortal King Rao*, a novel, and the forthcoming story collection *This Is Salvaged*. She has written and edited for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and elsewhere

and, for her nonfiction, has won honors from the International Center for Journalists, the McGraw Center for Business Journalism, the Asian American Journalists Association, and the South Asian Journalists Association. Her fiction has been honored by the O. Henry Prize, the Rona Jaffe Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts. She is a mentor at the Lighthouse Writers Workshop Book Project and the secretary at Periplus, a mentorship collective serving writers of color.

ELISSA WASHUTA is a member of the Cowlitz Indian tribe and the author of *White Magic, Starvation Mode*, and *My Body Is a Book of Rules*. With Theresa Warburton, she coedited the anthology *Shapes of Native Nonfiction: Collected Essays by Contemporary Writers*. Elissa is an associate professor at Ohio State University, where she teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing.

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