

Sex and the Single Woman

**24 Writers Reimagine
Helen Gurley Brown's Cult Classic**

Eliza Smith and Haley Swanson

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Kristen Arnett is the author of *With Teeth: A Novel* (Riverhead Books, 2021) and *The New York Times* bestselling debut novel *Mostly Dead Things* (Tin House, 2019), which was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in fiction. She is a queer fiction and essay writer. She was awarded *Ninth Letter's* Literary Award in Fiction, has been a columnist for *Literary Hub*, and is a current columnist for *Catapult*. She was a spring 2020 Shearing Fellow at Black Mountain Institute. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Cut*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, *Guernica*, *BuzzFeed*, *McSweeney's*, *PBS Newshour*, *The Guardian*, *Salon*, and elsewhere. Her next book (an untitled collection of short stories) will be published by Riverhead Books (Penguin Random House). She has a master's in library and information science from Florida State University and currently lives in Miami, Florida.

Laura Bogart is the author of the novel *Don't You Know I Love You* (Dzanc Books, 2020). Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *DAME*, *Vulture*, *BuzzFeed*, and *The Week*.

Keah Brown is an actress, journalist, author, and screenwriter. She is the creator of #DisabledAndCute. Her work has appeared in *Teen Vogue*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Marie Claire UK*, and *The New York Times*, among other publications. Her debut essay collection, *The Pretty One*, is out now. Her debut picture book, *Sam's Super Seats*, will be out in 2022 via Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Find out more at keahbrown.com.

Jennifer Chowdhury is a journalist and writer dedicated to stories on migration and immigration with a special focus on women of color around the world whose voices are stifled by patriarchy, systematic racism, and socioeconomic burdens. She spent two years reporting on the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. Her work has been featured in *The Washington Post*, NPR, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Elle*, and more.

Tiana Clark is the author of the poetry collection *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018), winner of the 2017 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, and *Equilibrium* (Bull City Press, 2016), selected by Afaa Michael Weaver for the 2016 Frost Place Chapbook Competition. Clark is a winner of the 2020 Kate Tufts Discovery Award (Claremont Graduate University), a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellow, a recipient of a 2019 Pushcart Prize, a winner of the 2017 Furious Flower's Gwendolyn Brooks Centennial Poetry Prize, and the 2015 Rattle Poetry Prize. She was the 2017–2018 Jay C. and Ruth Halls

Poetry Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing. Her writing has appeared in or is forthcoming from *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Tin House Online*, *Kenyon Review*, *BuzzFeed News*, *American Poetry Review*, *Oxford American*, and elsewhere. She is the Grace Hazard Conkling Writer-in-Residence at Smith College.

Kate Crawford was fifteen when Helen Gurley Brown's *Sex and the Single Girl* came out. By the time she read it in college, she already knew she would have sex as a single. (She was, however, surprised at her fiftieth reunion with how many women admitted they'd married simply because they were having sex with the man.) Kate started writing in 2000. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Best Travel Writing* 2012. She's been honored with awards from the Tucson Festival of Books, Taos Writers, Solas, Wanderlust and Lipstick, and Book Passage's Travel Writers. She owned, wrote for, and photographed the now-defunct website *Ciao! Travel with Attitude*, which attained a hundred thousand hits a month. Kate lives in senior cohousing where everything, except the seniors, is sustainable.

Evette Dionne is a journalist, pop-culture critic, and magazine editor. She's the National Book Award-nominated and Coretta Scott King Honor author of *Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*, and she currently works on Netflix's editorial team. Evette writes extensively about pop culture through the lenses of race, gender, and size for a number of print and digital publications, including NBC News, *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *Guardian*, *SELF*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. You can find her across the web at @freeblackgirl.

Rosemary Donahue is a writer, editor, and a third thing that is constantly changing. They live in Brooklyn, New York, with their dog, Milo.

Melissa Faliveno is the author of the essay collection *TOMBOY-LAND*, which was named a Best Book of 2020 by NPR, the New York Public Library, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and *Electric Literature*, and received a 2021 award for outstanding literary achievement from the Wisconsin Library Association. Her essays and interviews have appeared in *Esquire*, *Paris Review*, *Bitch*, *Ms.*, *Lit Hub*, *Brooklyn Rail*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among others, and received a notable selection in *Best American Essays*. The former senior editor of *Poets & Writers Magazine*, she was the 2020–21 Kenan Visiting Writer at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and is currently a visiting assistant professor of English at Kenyon College. You can find her online at melissafaliveno.com.

Melissa Febos is the author of the memoir *Whip Smart* and three essay collections: *Abandon Me*, a LAMBDA Literary Award and Publishing Triangle Award finalist; *Girlhood*, a national best-seller; and *Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative*. Febos is the inaugural winner of the Jeanne Córdova Nonfiction Award from LAMBDA Literary and the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, Bread Loaf, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the BAU Institute, Vermont Studio Center, the Barbara Deming Foundation, and others; her essays have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's Quarterly*, *Granta*, *Sewanee Review*, *Tin House*, *The Sun*, and *The New York Times*. She is an associate professor at the University of Iowa, where she teaches in the Nonfiction Writing Program.

Vanessa Friedman (she/her) is a queer dyke writer living in Portland, Oregon. She's the community editor at *Autostraddle* and a teaching artist with Literary Arts and 826NYC. She received her MFA in creative nonfiction from Sarah Lawrence College, and she is a Tin House Summer Workshop alum and a Hedgebrook Spring Retreat alum. Vanessa writes about friendship, home, loneliness, grief, sex, and the body; her work has been published in *Autostraddle*, *Nylon*, *Catapult*, *Alma*, *Shape*, and elsewhere. Vanessa is currently at work on her first novel. You can find her online at vanessapamela.com.

Brooke Hauser is a longtime journalist. She is the former editor in chief of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* newspaper in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is also the author of two books: *Enter Helen: The Invention of Helen Gurley Brown and the Rise of the Modern Single Woman*, winner of the National Arts and Entertainment Journalism Award for Best Nonfiction Book, and *The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens*, a winner of the American Library Association's Alex Award. Hauser has written for *Allure*, *Marie Claire*, *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker* online, among many other publications. For several years, she covered the film industry as a writer and editor at *Premiere*. Originally from Miami, Florida, Hauser lives with her family in western Massachusetts, where she has taught nonfiction writing at Smith College.

Minda Honey is a writer from Louisville, Kentucky. She has let men in every time zone break her heart. Related: *An Anthology of Assholes*, her essay collection about dating as a woman of color, is forthcoming from Little A in summer 2023. Her writing has

appeared in *Longreads*, *The Guardian*, *The Undeclared*, *Salon*, the *Oxford American*, and elsewhere.

Briallen Hopper is the author of *Hard to Love: Essays and Confessions*, a Kirkus Best Book of 2019. She teaches creative writing at Queens College, CUNY, and lives in Elmhurst, Queens, with a thousand books and a hundred dresses.

Giaae Kwon's writing has appeared in *Catapult*, *The Rumpus*, *BuzzFeed Reader*, *Electric Literature*, and *Taste*. She writes the newsletter *I Love You, Egg*, and lives in Brooklyn.

Tawny Lara is a New York City-based writer whose work examines the intersection of sobriety and sexuality. Her words are published in *Playboy*, *Men's Health*, and *HuffPost*, and she cohosts the *Recovery Rocks* podcast. Fun fact: she has a spicy taco dish named after her ("La Chica Diabla") in her hometown of Waco, Texas.

Shayla Lawson is that bitch. You can find more words at her regular column for *Bustle* magazine or in her 2020 essay collection *This Is Major: Notes on Diana Ross, Dark Girls, and Being Dope* (Harper Perennial, 2020).

Natalie Lima is a Cuban-Puerto Rican writer from Las Vegas, Nevada, and Hialeah, Florida. She is a first-generation college graduate of Northwestern University and a graduate of the MFA program in creative nonfiction writing at the University of Arizona. Her essays and fiction have been published or are forthcoming in *Longreads*, *Guernica*, *Catapult*, *Brevity*, *The Offing*, *Body Language* (Catapult, 2022), and elsewhere. She has received fel-

lowships from PEN America Emerging Voices, Bread Loaf, Tin House, the VONA/Voices Workshop, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, and a residency from Hedgebrook. Natalie is currently working on a memoir in essays. You can find her on Instagram and Twitter @natalielima09.

Morgan Parker is a poet, essayist, and novelist. She is the author of the California Book Award–nominated young adult novel *Who Put This Song On?* and the poetry collections *Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up at Night*, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*, and *Magical Negro*, which won the 2019 National Book Critics Circle Award and California Book Award. Her debut book of nonfiction is forthcoming from One World. Parker's work has appeared in such publications as *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Time*, *Best American Poetry*, and *Playbill*. She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, winner of a Pushcart Prize, a Cave Canem graduate fellow, and cofounder of the Other Black Girl Collective with Angel Nafis. Morgan lives in Los Angeles.

Nichole Perkins is a writer and podcast host from Nashville, Tennessee. She hosts *This Is Good for You*, a podcast about finding pleasure in life, and previously was a cohost of *Thirst Aid Kit*, a podcast about pop culture and desire. Nichole is the author of *Lilith, But Dark*, a poetry collection, and *Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be*, a memoir.

Josie Pickens is a professor, writer, cultural critic, storyteller, and radio host whose many works focus on race and gender, and the varying intersections of the two. Her ultimate goal is to serve as

witness and to give voice to marginalized communities that often go unseen and unheard, through her gifts of interviewing, writing, documenting, and storytelling. Pickens has regularly provided timely social commentary for *Ebony*, *Essence*, and *Bitch* magazines, and she has been cited on *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* news sites. Pickens's current passion project is called *The Love No Limit Show* (a radio show that is also streamed as a podcast), which serves as a community forum and storytelling project that hopes to explore love in expansive, radical, restorative, and authentic ways. The questions the show works to answer (in varying ways) are: How do BIPOC people practice healthily loving ourselves, our romantic and platonic partners, our families, and our communities in the face of oppression, racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and more; and how do BIPOC people love and nurture our gifts and passions while facing the aforementioned kinds of complications? Find out more about Josie by visiting her website: www.josiepickens.me.

Xoài PhĐm is a Vietnamese trans woman descended from a long legacy of warriors, healers, and shamans. Her life's work is in dreaming new futures where we are all limitless. She makes those dreams a reality as a poet, essayist, editor, and screenwriter. She is currently the deputy director of communications at Transgender Law Center and trans subject editor of *Autostraddle*, while also writing for publications like *Elle*, *Esquire*, and *Teen Vogue*.

Seema Reza is a writer and performer and the author of *When the World Breaks Open* (Red Hen Press, 2016) and *A Constellation of Half-Lives* (Write Bloody Publishing, 2019). Based outside of Washington, D.C., she is the CEO of Community Building Art Works, an organization that encourages the use of the arts as a tool for

narration, self-care, and socialization among a military population struggling with emotional and physical injuries. In 2015 she was awarded the Colonel John Gioia Patriot Award by USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore for her work with servicemembers. In 2018, the HBO documentary *We Are Not Done Yet* featured the work of Community Building Art Works. She has taught poetry in classrooms, jails, hospitals, and universities. An alumnus of Goddard College and VONA, her writing has appeared online and in print in *McSweeney's*, *The Washington Post*, *The LA Review*, *The Feminist Wire*, *HerKind*, *The Offing*, and *Entropy*, among others, and she has authored case studies that have appeared in *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Related Diseases in Combat Veterans*. She has performed at universities, festivals, correctional facilities, and theaters across the country.