



Frankfurt 2025 Select Backlist

[And The Spirit Moved Them](#)

By Helen LaKelly Hunt
Foreword by Cornel West

“Helen Lakelly Hunt brings to life a lost chapter in American history of great historical importance—and of direct relevance to our turbulent times. It shows how working together across races and classes women can challenge entrenched beliefs justifying domination and injustice. I highly recommend this beautifully written book for everyone, young and old.” —**Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice and the Blade***

A decade before the Seneca Falls Convention, black and white women joined together at the 1837 Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in the first instance of political organizing by American women *for* American women. Although the convention was largely written out of history for its religious and interracial character, these women created a blueprint for an intersectional feminism that was centuries ahead of its time. Part historical investigation, part personal memoir, Hunt traces how her research into nineteenth-century organizing led her to confront her own position of power and acknowledges the feminist faith animating her life’s work.

World English
248 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2017

[Apsara Engine](#)

By Bishakh Som

"Som's imagination is science-fictiony, without being particularly technological, mythic without being particularly traditional, and humanistic without cherishing any particular assumptions about where we, as a species, are headed. . . . Evading standard categories and unsettling familiar narrative patterns, the book is a testament to how trans experiences can teach us entirely new ways of imagining our humanity." —[NPR.org](https://www.npr.org)

The eight delightfully eerie stories in *Apsara Engine* are a subtle intervention into everyday reality. A woman drowns herself in a past affair, a tourist chases another guest into an unforeseen past, and a nonbinary academic researches postcolonial cartography. Imagining diverse futures and rewriting old mythologies, these comics delve into strange architectures, fetishism, and heartbreak. Painted in rich, sepia-toned watercolors, *Apsara Engine* is Bishakh Som's highly anticipated debut work of fiction. Showcasing a series of fraught, darkly humorous, and seemingly alien worlds—which ring all too familiar—Som captures the weight of twenty-first-century life as we hurl ourselves forward into the unknown.

World English x AU and NZ
250 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2020

[Arid Dreams](#)

By Duanwad Pimwana
Translation by Mui Poopoksakul

"Each of her stories poses its own moral challenge, pleasurable and unsettling at once."
—[NPR.org](https://www.npr.org)

In thirteen stories that investigate ordinary and working-class Thailand, characters aspire for more but remain suspended in routine. They bide their time, waiting for an extraordinary event to end their stasis. A politician's wife imagines her life had her husband's accident been fatal, a man on death row requests that a friend clear up a misunderstanding with a sex worker, and an elevator attendant feels himself wasting away while trapped, immobile, at his station all day. With curious wit, this collection offers revelatory insight and subtle critique, exploring class, gender, and disenchantment in a changing country.

World English
216 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2019

[The Chinese Garden](#)

By Rosemary Manning

"Rosemary Manning's unjustly forgotten novel is a deft depiction of innocence and the forces of hypocrisy, paranoia, and self-hatred that betray innocence. It deserves to rank among the very best of the early- and mid-twentieth-century portrayals of girls' school love such as *Olivia and Mädchen in Uniform*." —**Lillian Faderman, author of *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers***

Set in a repressive British girls' boarding school in the late 1920s—where not only sexuality but femininity is squashed—*The Chinese Garden* tells the story of sixteen-year-old Rachel, a sensitive, bright, and innocent student who finds refuge in a secret garden and through friendship with a rebellious girl named Margaret.

Film rights recently sold

World English & translation rights

208 pages

First Feminist Press edition 1999

David's Story

By Zoë Wicomb

Afterword by Dorothy Driver

A powerful post-apartheid novel and winner of South Africa's M-Net Literary Award, hailed by J.M. Coetzee as "a tremendous achievement."

South Africa, 1991: Nelson Mandela is freed from prison, the African National Congress is now legal, and a new day dawns in Cape Town. David Dirkse, part of the underground world of activists, spies, and saboteurs in the liberation movement, suddenly finds himself above ground. With "time to think" after the unbanning of the movement, David searches his family tree, tracing his bloodline to the mixed-race "Coloured" people of South Africa and their antecedents among the indigenous people and early colonial settlers.

But as David studies his roots, he soon learns that he's on a hit list. Now caught in a web of surveillance and betrayal, he's forced to rethink his role in the struggle for "nonracial democracy," the loyalty of his "comrades," and his own conceptions of freedom.

Mesmerizing and multilayered, Wicomb's award-winning novel delivers a moving examination of the nature of political vision, memory, and truth.

"For years we have been waiting to see what the literature of post-apartheid South Africa will look like. Now Zoë Wicomb delivers the goods. Witty in tone, sophisticated in technique, eclectic in language, beholden to no one in its politics, *David's Story* is a tremendous achievement and a huge step in the remaking of the South African novel."

—**J. M. Coetzee, author of *Disgrace***

World English

288 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2002
UK Publication Date
2002-08-15

[Departing at Dawn](#)

By Gloria Lisé
Translated by Alice Weldon

“[A] quiet, powerful novel” of a young woman caught in the chaos of Argentina in the mid-1970s, when speaking against the government could mean death (*Publishers Weekly*).

March 23, 1976. Berta watches horrified as her lover, a union organizer named Atilio, is thrown from a window to his death by soldiers. The next day, Colonel Jorge Rafael Videla stages a coup d'état and a military dictatorship takes control of Argentina. And even though she was never a part of Atilio's union efforts, Berta is on a list to be “disappeared.”

Fleeing to relatives in the countryside, she becomes part of the family she knows only from old photographs: Aunt Avelina, who blasts music from an old record player; Uncle Nepomuceno, who watches slugs slither in the garden every afternoon; and Uncle Javier, who sits in his tiny grocery store day and night. But soon enough, Berta realizes she must run even further to save her life—and those she has come to love.

With a prose that is light yet penetrating, Gloria Lisé has written “a beautifully simple, poetic story of solidarity and love, with memorable characters painted in the tender strokes of a watercolor” (Luisa Valenzuela, author of *Black Novel with Argentines*).

"It never ceases to astound me how many people around the world choose to deny a dark period in the history of their respective nations. Anyone anywhere today in need of the reminder that political change begins with speaking out should read this testimony." —**Ana Castillo, author of *Massacre of the Dreamers***

World English
160 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2009

[Dreaming of Baghdad](#)

By Haifa Zangana
Afterword by Ferial J. Ghazoul

In 1970s Iraq, the Ba'ath Party was at the height of its influence in the Middle East and popularity throughout the West. But a group of activists recognized the disastrous potential of the regime as its charismatic leader, Saddam Hussein, came to power. Haifa Zangana was

among those who resisted Saddam's rule, a small group of whom were captured and imprisoned at Abu Ghraib.

Now, from a distance of time and place, Zangana writes about her incarceration, the agonizing loss of comrades to torture and death in prison, her safe yet haunted life so far away from friends, family, and her beloved country, and the ways memory conspires to make us forget.

"Deftly sketched, simple and poetic, *Dreaming of Baghdad* drags politics down from the realm of the abstract into the mud, fear, and loneliness of personal experience and psychological ruin that is life under dictatorship. This is a landscape of clandestine struggle and crushing political defeat, of familiar old streets and the alienating structures of exile. Zangana's story is heartbreaking, but her clarity and resilience inspire awe." —The Nation

World English and translation x India

Rights previously sold to Turkey

160 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2009

FEMME FATALES SERIES

- [By Cecile](#)

By Tereska Torres

"Madame Torres has re-imagined a youthful Colette (here called Cecile) in the infinitely seductive post-World War II period in Paris, where she moves like a sleeping princess through the perverse fairy tales of man-made cafe society. *By Cecile* is a sharply perceptive novel."—**Joan Schenkar, author of *The Talented Miss Highsmith***

When eighteen-year-old Cécile is orphaned at the end of World War II, the curious and adventurous Catholic student finds refuge in Paris, and with an older man. A former member of the Resistance with Cécile's parents, Maurice is handsome, a thrilling cultured patron of the arts, and a mentor eager to introduce the budding young author to his intimate circle of friends—Cocteau, Sartre, and Eartha Kitt! As liberating an influence as he is, Maurice also encourages Cécile to shed her inhibitions he sees as bourgeois. Possessing a sensual and passionate temperament, Cécile is eager to begin exploring—by sharing Maurice's mistress, and writing of every life-changing and delightfully scandalous new experience.

World English

240 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2012

- [Mother Finds a Body](#)

By Gypsy Rose Lee

This encore performance by the author of *The G-String Murders* is simply “one of the greatest mysteries ever written” (*Philadelphia Daily News*).

It's supposed to be a quiet honeymoon getaway for celebrated stripper Gypsy Rose Lee and Biff Brannigan, ex-comic and ex-Casanova of the Burly Q circuit, settled as they are in a cozy trailer built for two. If you don't count Gypsy's overbearing mother, a monkey act, and Gee Gee, a.k.a. the Platinum Panic. Not to mention the best man found shot to death in the bathtub. Strippers are used to ballyhoo, but this time it's murder.

Leave it to Gypsy and her latest scandal to draw a crowd: Biff's burnt-out ex-flame, a sleazy dive owner with a Ziegfeld complex, a bus-and-truck circus troupe, and a local Texas sheriff randy for celebrities. But when another corpse turns up with a knife in his back, Gypsy fears that some rube is dead set on pulling the curtain on her bump and grind. She's been in the biz long enough to know this ghastly mess is just a tease of things to come.

World English

144 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2012

French rights sold

- [Now, Voyager!](#)

By Olive Higgins Prouty

"What a satisfying book. At once tough-minded and terribly romantic, it sweeps us up in an ageless tale of love while foreshadowing today's notions of sexual liberation, emotional wholeness, and personal independence. Prouty is a wonderful writer, and her Charlotte Vale a timeless and very sophisticated Cinderella." --**Patricia Gaffney, author of *The Saving Graces***

Boston blueblood Charlotte Vale has led an unhappy, sheltered life. Dowdy, repressed, and pushing forty, Charlotte finds salvation in the unlikely form of a nervous breakdown, placing her at a sanitarium, where she undergoes treatment to rebuild her ravaged self-esteem and uncover her true intelligence and charm. Well over half a century after its initial publication, *Now, Voyager* still offers fresh and quietly radical takes on psychiatric treatment, traditional family life, female desire, and women's agency.

World English

304 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2004

- [Women's Barracks](#)

By Tereska Torres

This novel—based on the author's real-life experiences—is credited as the first candidly lesbian novel, originally published in 1950, that “scandalized mid-century America” (*The New York Times*).

As the Blitz rains down over London, taboos are broken, affairs start and stop, and hearts are won and lost. This account of life among female Free French soldiers in a London barracks during World War II sold four million copies in the United States alone and many more worldwide, and inspired a whole new genre: lesbian pulp.

World English

256 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2005

[From Wonso Pond](#)

By Kang Kyong-ae

Translation by Samuel Perry

“From Wonso Pond is an astonishing achievement of a young author whose life and work ended far too soon. Here, we have two girls and two boys, four hearts and two roads. From a colonized Korea, Kang sets the stage for the tragic birth of two rival nations. John Dos Passos and George Orwell may have had a Korean sister yet.” —**Min Jin Lee, author of *Free Food For Millionaires***

A classic revolutionary novel of the 1930s, *From Wonso Pond* transforms the love triangle between three protagonists into a revealing portrait of the living conditions that led to modern Korea, both North and South. In a plot rich with Dickensian overtones, the novel paints a vivid picture of life in what is now North Korea through the eyes of Sonbi, her childhood neighbor, Ch’otchae, and a restless law student, Sinch’ol, as they journey separately from a small, impoverished village ruled by the lecherous land baron to the port city of Inch’on. But life is hardly easier there, as Sonbi wears herself out boiling silk threads twelve hours a day while Ch’otchae and Sinch’ol load rice on the docks. All three become involved with underground activists, fighting the oppression of country and city, as well as their Japanese colonial rulers.

World English

Rights previously sold in Korea, Japan, Mainland China

360 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2009

[Head Above Water](#)

By Shahd Alshammari

"Not only a deeply important exploration of illness and the body but also an exploration of narrative—how and why we tell stories. A necessary read." —***The Brooklyn Rail***

Taking the form of a reconstructed diary with commentary from a former student, close friend, and confidante, professor of literature Shahd Alshammari navigates a narrative of her life as a woman marked "ill" by society, as a daughter haunted by her mother, and as a dedicated teacher and reader with a fascination for storytelling's power to bring liberation.

World English and translation rights x Arabic

Rights previously sold in UK (Neem Tree), currently available

176 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2023

[Johnny Would You Love Me If My Dick Was Bigger](#)

UK, French rights sold; Brazil rights fell through? Spanish contract just terminated (sold in 2018). Might be worth checking in with subagents about? Keep Portuguese and Spanish rights as available...

By Brontez Purnell

"Brontez is a raw tongue of flame blazing through all the blatant fakery and insincere bullshit of today's gay/music/human scene. This audacious non-memoir burnt the hair off the back of my neck and had me rolling with glee." —***S.F. Bay Guardian***

A dirty cult-classic put out in a small batch by an underground publisher (Rudos and Rubes) in 2015, *Johnny Would You Love Me If My Dick Were Bigger* recounts the life of an artist and "old school homosexual" who bears a big resemblance to author Brontez Purnell. Our hero doesn't trust the new breed of fags taking over San Francisco, though. They wear bicycle helmets, seat belts, and condoms. Meanwhile, he sabotages his relationships, hallucinating affection while cruising in late night parks, bath-houses, and other nooks and crannies of a newly-conservative, ruined city. Furiously original, vital, and messy, this funny "non-memoir" uncovers a revelatory truth for the age: there are things far scarier than HIV.

World English

200 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2017

UK and French rights sold

[Joss and Gold](#)

By Shirley Geok-lin Lim

Afterword by Leong Liew Geok

"This felicitous novel is several books in one—*Madame Butterfly* transplanted to Malaysia, a feminist manifesto, and a commentary on the new Southeast Asia that has been emerging in recent years. Lim has woven these strands together in a colorful batik that is dazzling."

—Hisaye Yamamoto, author of *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories*

Li An, a young Malaysian woman of Chinese descent, seeks to understand herself as the country around her struggles to determine its own identity. And much like the politically charged atmosphere of 1969 Kuala Lumpur, Li An must confront the contradictions within. While she supports her nation's fight to break free from the influence of British colonial rule, she cannot deny her love for the English poetry that she teaches. While she aspires to be an independent woman, she still finds herself married to the dependable Henry—until she meets an American Peace Corps volunteer named Chester Brookfield. Their encounter propels Li An on a quest of self-discovery, one that spans the divide between East and West, women and men, freedom and responsibility. Told with insight and wit, Lim's sweeping debut novel demonstrates that while the journey is never easy, all roads lead, ultimately, to our true selves.

World English

288 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2002

[The Little Locksmith](#)

By Katharine Butler Hathaway

Foreword by Alix Kates Shulman

"Rediscovered by The Feminist Press, this remarkably un-self-pitying book remains poignant and truthful. ... Hathaway treats the actual events in her life as practically irrelevant: the story she emphasizes is her spiritual and creative struggle to claim "selfish" time to write, her intense loneliness, her startlingly frank observations about her sexuality and her rebellion against the belief that an imperfect person does not experience desire." —**Publishers Weekly**

In 1895, a specialist straps five-year-old Katharine Hathaway, then suffering from spinal tuberculosis, to a board with halters and pulleys in an attempt to prevent her from becoming a "hunchback" like the "little locksmith" who does odd jobs at her family's home. Forced to endure her confinement for ten years, *The Little Locksmith* charts Katharine's struggle to transcend her experiences and to claim her independence, identity, and desires for love, self-regard, and time to practice her art.

World English
Rights previously sold in UK (Aurum Press, 2001)
272 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2000

[The Love Children](#)

By Marilyn French

"Marilyn French has left us with the perfect parallel to *The Women's Room*...Readers will find their own lives here—and the heart and mind of a woman who helped save them." —**Gloria Steinem**

It's 1968 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. With more options than her mother's generation, but no role model for creating the life she desires, Jess Leighton, the daughter of a temperamental painter and a proto-feminist professor, experiments with sex and psychedelic drugs as she searches for happiness on her own terms.

World English & translation rights
352 pages
First Feminist Press edition in 2009

[Naphthalene](#)

By Alia Mamdouh
Translated from Arabic by Peter Theroux
Foreword by Hélène Cixous

"Describes in poetic, incantatory language the city's domestic life . . . [and] around this private world swirl the politics of the 1950s in Iraq." —**New York Times Book Review**

Through her rich and lyrical descriptions, Alia Mamdouh vividly recreates a city of public steam baths, roadside butchers, and childhood games played in the same streets where political demonstrations against British colonialism are beginning to take place. At the heart of the novel is nine-year-old Huda, a girl whose fiery, defiant nature contrasts sharply with her own inherent powerlessness.

World English & translation rights
Rights previously sold in France (Actes Sud, 1999), Catalonia (Límits, 2000), UK (Gerard, 1986, Turkish language 2009)
214 pages
First Feminist Press edition in 2006

Native Tongue

By Suzette Haden Elgin

"A welcome reminder of the feminist legacies of science fiction. . . . Explores the power of speech, agency, and subversion in a work that is as gripping, troubling, and meaningful today as it has ever been." —**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

In 2205, the 19th Amendment has long been repealed and women are only valued for their utility. The Earth's economy depends on an insular group of linguists who "breed" women to be perfect interstellar translators until they are sent to the Barren House to await death. But instead, these women are slowly creating a language of their own to make resistance possible. Ignorant to this brewing revolution, Nazareth, a brilliant linguist, and Michaela, a servant, both seek emancipation in their own ways. But their personal rebellions risk exposing the secret language, and threaten the possibility of freedom for all.

World English & translation rights

Rights sold in France, Catalonia, Spain, Italy, Germany, Korea, UK

400 pages

First Feminist Press edition in 2000

[The Queen is in the Garbage](#)

By Lila Karp

Afterword by Vivian Gornick

"For a whole generation of women . . . Lila Karp has managed to get it all on paper." —**Kate Millet, author of *Sexual Politics***

Lila Karp halts time to explore the conflicted psyche of thirty-two-year-old Harriet Battenberg as she inventories her life during a fourteen-hour labor. Wrenching flashbacks recall embittering conflicts with her mother, unfulfilling relationships with men, a miscarriage, and an abortion. With a wit and distinct literary style unique among writers from the 1960s U.S. feminist movement, *The Queen Is In the Garbage* still resounds today for everyone fighting to find themselves and write their own histories and futures.

World English & translation rights

192 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2007

[Since I Laid My Burden Down](#)

By Brontez Purnell

"It's a true novel, chaptered, and bound, that not only holds its own as queer literature, with its unapologetically misanthropic narrative, but also expands upon it." —***San Francisco Chronicle***

DeShawn lives a high, creative, and promiscuous life in San Francisco. But when he's called back to his cramped Alabama hometown for his uncle's funeral, he's hit by flashbacks of handsome, doomed neighbors and sweltering Sunday services. Amidst prickly reminders of his childhood, DeShawn ponders family, church, and the men in his life, prompting the question: Who deserves love? A modern American classic from the author of *100 Boyfriends*, *Since I Laid My Burden Down* is a raw and searing look into the intersections of memory, Blackness, and queerness.

World English & translation rights
Rights sold in Germany & UK
First Feminist Press edition 2017

[Skye Papers](#)

By Jamika Ajalon

"From the rhythmic, riffing, incantatory prose to the novel's cinematic crosscutting and recursive structure, to the minutiae of Skye and her friends' daily struggles as artists, we get lost in a world that Ajalon renders with precision and lyricism that elude her main character." —***The New York Times***

Twentysomething and restless, Skye flits between cities and stagnant relationships until she meets Scottie, a disarming and disheveled British traveler, and Pieces, an enigmatic artist living in New York. The three recognize each other as kindred spirits—Black, punk, whimsical, revolutionary—and fall in together in a glorious, subterranean existence making multimedia art in 1990s London until their rise of the surveillance state threatens their existence. In fluid and unrelenting prose, Jamika Ajalon's debut novel explores youth, poetry, and what it means to come to terms with queerness in a fraught reality of increasing state surveillance.

World English & translation rights
272 pages
First Feminist Press edition 2021

[Zubaida's Window](#)

By Iqbal Al-Qazwini

Translated from Arabic by Azza El Kholy and Amira Nowaira

"A compelling, difficult, and important novel. . . . [that] flows seamlessly between past and present, experienced and imagined." —***Feminist Review***

Like millions around the world, Iraqi exile Zubaida watches the invasion on her television, where the unreal and constantly flickering images of US forces closing in on Baghdad blend with the city of her childhood. Struggling from her Berlin apartment to deal with the horror on the television and the ghosts of her memory, Zubaida, in her grief, creates her own world, one in which she can almost go home.

World English & translation rights

144 pages

First Feminist Press edition 2008