

on earth were briefly gorgeous

on earth were briefly gorgeous is a phrase that has captivated readers and literary critics alike, invoking a sense of fleeting beauty and profound reflection. This article explores the many dimensions of "on earth were briefly gorgeous," including its origins, impact on contemporary literature, and why it resonates so deeply with audiences around the world. Readers will discover the background of the topic, key themes, cultural significance, and the reasons behind its enduring popularity. Through a detailed analysis, the article will delve into the stylistic brilliance and emotional depth that make "on earth were briefly gorgeous" a literary phenomenon. Whether you are a passionate reader, a literature student, or someone looking for a deeper understanding of modern storytelling, this comprehensive guide will provide valuable insights. Rich in information and structured for easy navigation, this article ensures a thorough exploration of the subject while using keywords and related phrases in a natural, engaging manner. Continue reading to uncover everything you need to know about "on earth were briefly gorgeous."

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Understanding "on earth were briefly gorgeous": Origins and Context

The phrase "on earth were briefly gorgeous" first gained widespread recognition as the title of a critically acclaimed novel by Ocean Vuong. The novel, published in 2019, quickly established itself as a significant work in modern literature, blending lyrical prose with a deeply personal narrative. The story unfolds in the form of a letter from a son to his mother, touching on themes of immigration, family, trauma, and identity. This context is essential to understanding the phrase's roots and why it carries such emotional weight. Additionally, the phrase encapsulates the novel's central idea—that beauty and pain often coexist in fleeting moments, making them all the more precious. The context of its publication, in an era marked by increased awareness of cultural diversity and personal storytelling, further heightened its relevance and appeal.

Key Themes and Literary Devices Explored

Exploration of Identity and Heritage

A central theme in "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" is the exploration of identity, particularly in the context of the Vietnamese-American experience. The narrative delves into the struggles of navigating two cultures, the complexities of language barriers, and the search for personal belonging. The protagonist's journey reflects universal questions about self-acceptance and understanding one's roots, making the story relatable to a broad audience.

The Power of Memory and Trauma

Memory plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative, with the protagonist frequently reflecting on past events and their lasting impact. Trauma, both personal and inherited, is depicted through vivid imagery and emotional honesty. The novel uses memory as both a source of pain and a means of healing, illustrating how the past can influence the present and future.

Love, Loss, and Human Connection

Themes of love and loss are woven throughout the novel, emphasizing the importance of human connection in overcoming adversity. The relationship between the protagonist and his mother lies at the heart of the story, highlighting the complexities of familial love in the face of hardship. Furthermore, romantic love and friendship are portrayed as avenues of growth and resilience.

- Identity and cultural heritage
- Memory and generational trauma
- Love, loss, and resilience
- The immigrant experience
- Language as both barrier and bridge

Cultural and Social Impact

"On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous" has made a significant impact on contemporary literature and culture. Its honest portrayal of the immigrant experience has resonated with readers from diverse backgrounds, contributing to broader conversations about race, identity, and belonging. The novel has been praised for its ability to address complex social issues without sacrificing narrative beauty. It has sparked discussions in academic circles, book clubs, and social media platforms, highlighting the need for greater

representation in literature. The book's success has also paved the way for other writers from marginalized communities to share their stories, enriching the literary landscape and fostering empathy among readers.

Stylistic Elements and Writing Techniques

Lyrical Prose and Poetic Imagery

One of the most distinctive features of "on earth were briefly gorgeous" is its lyrical prose. Ocean Vuong, a renowned poet, infuses the novel with poetic language, employing striking imagery and metaphors to convey emotion and meaning. This stylistic choice elevates the narrative, turning ordinary moments into profound reflections on life and beauty.

Nonlinear Narrative Structure

The novel employs a nonlinear structure, moving fluidly between past and present. This technique mirrors the workings of memory, allowing readers to experience the protagonist's thoughts and emotions as they unfold. The nontraditional timeline adds depth to the storytelling, encouraging readers to piece together the narrative and engage more actively with the text.

Intimate First-Person Perspective

Told from the perspective of the protagonist, the first-person narrative creates an intimate connection between reader and character. This approach invites readers into the character's inner world, fostering empathy and understanding for his experiences. The use of direct address in the form of a letter further enhances the sense of closeness and vulnerability.

1. Lyrical and evocative language
2. Metaphorical descriptions and symbolism
3. Nonlinear storytelling techniques
4. Deeply personal first-person narration

Reception and Critical Acclaim

Since its release, "on earth were briefly gorgeous" has received widespread critical acclaim. Major literary outlets and critics have lauded the novel for its emotional intensity, innovative style, and cultural significance. It has been shortlisted for and received several literary awards, further cementing its status as a modern classic. The book has also enjoyed

commercial success, appearing on bestseller lists and being translated into multiple languages. Critics have noted the novel's ability to blend poetic language with powerful storytelling, making it a standout work in contemporary fiction. Its impact extends beyond the literary world, inspiring readers to reflect on their own lives and the beauty found in fleeting moments.

Why "on earth were briefly gorgeous" Resonates Today

The lasting appeal of "on earth were briefly gorgeous" lies in its universal themes and authentic voice. In an increasingly diverse and interconnected world, readers are drawn to stories that reflect real experiences and emotions. The novel's exploration of identity, trauma, and love speaks to fundamental aspects of the human condition. Its poetic style and emotional honesty set it apart from other works, offering both beauty and substance. As discussions about representation, mental health, and cultural heritage continue to evolve, "on earth were briefly gorgeous" remains a relevant and inspiring touchstone. Its message of finding beauty in moments of pain and triumph resonates with readers seeking meaning and connection in their own lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of "on earth were briefly gorgeous"?

A: The main message centers on the fleeting nature of beauty, the complexities of identity, and the transformative power of love and memory. The novel encourages readers to find meaning and beauty in even the most difficult experiences.

Q: Who is the author of "on earth were briefly gorgeous"?

A: "on earth were briefly gorgeous" was written by Ocean Vuong, an award-winning Vietnamese-American poet and novelist.

Q: What makes the writing style of "on earth were briefly gorgeous" unique?

A: The novel is known for its lyrical prose, poetic imagery, and nonlinear narrative structure, which together create a deeply immersive and emotional reading experience.

Q: Why has "on earth were briefly gorgeous" received so much critical acclaim?

A: Critics have praised the novel for its emotional depth, cultural relevance, and innovative writing style. Its honest exploration of complex themes has made it a standout work in contemporary literature.

Q: How does the novel explore the immigrant experience?

A: The protagonist's journey reflects the challenges of adapting to a new culture, language barriers, and the struggle to maintain connections to one's heritage, providing a nuanced view of the immigrant experience.

Q: In what ways does memory influence the story in "on earth were briefly gorgeous"?

A: Memory is a central motif, shaping the protagonist's understanding of himself and his relationships. The novel uses flashbacks and reflection to weave together personal and generational experiences.

Q: What are some key themes in "on earth were briefly gorgeous"?

A: Key themes include identity, trauma, love, loss, cultural heritage, and the search for belonging.

Q: Is "on earth were briefly gorgeous" based on a true story?

A: While the novel is fictional, it draws heavily from the author's own life and experiences, making it semi-autobiographical in nature.

Q: How has "on earth were briefly gorgeous" influenced modern literature?

A: The novel's success has inspired greater diversity and representation in literature, encouraging other authors from marginalized backgrounds to share their stories.

Q: Who should read "on earth were briefly gorgeous"?

A: The novel is recommended for readers interested in contemporary fiction, lyrical prose, stories of family and identity, and those seeking a deeper understanding of the immigrant experience.

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On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous: Exploring a Novel's Impact

Have you ever encountered a book that leaves an indelible mark on your soul, a story so resonant it lingers long after you turn the final page? Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous* is precisely that kind of novel. This post delves deep into the emotional landscape of Vuong's acclaimed work, exploring its themes, characters, and the lasting impact it has on readers. We'll unpack the complexities of the narrative, examining its lyrical prose, its unflinching portrayal of trauma, and its ultimate message of love and resilience. Prepare to be moved, challenged, and perhaps even changed by the power of this unforgettable story.

Unpacking the Narrative Structure: A Letter to a Mother

On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous isn't your typical novel. It's presented as a letter from a young man, Little Dog, to his estranged mother, Rose. This unconventional structure immediately establishes a profound intimacy and vulnerability. The letter becomes a conduit for Little Dog to confront his past, explore his complicated relationship with his mother, and grapple with the intergenerational trauma that has shaped his life. This epistolary approach allows for raw honesty and emotional depth, drawing the reader into the heart of Little Dog's internal struggles.

The Weight of Unspoken Words: Exploring Family Secrets

One of the core strengths of the novel lies in its exploration of unspoken words and buried family secrets. The Vietnamese immigrant experience, the realities of poverty, and the legacy of violence and abuse are interwoven throughout the narrative. Little Dog's relationship with his mother is characterized by a complex mixture of love, resentment, and unspoken expectations. He uses the letter as a means of finally addressing these unspoken feelings, forcing both himself and the reader to confront the painful realities of his past.

Trauma and Resilience: Finding Strength in Vulnerability

The novel doesn't shy away from the harsh realities of trauma. Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse are depicted with unflinching honesty, underscoring the lasting impact of these experiences on Little Dog's life. However, amidst the darkness, there's a powerful undercurrent of resilience. The narrative highlights Little Dog's journey of self-discovery and his gradual healing process, showcasing the remarkable strength it takes to confront and overcome immense suffering.

The Beauty of Language: Vuong's Lyrical Prose

Beyond the emotional core of the story, Vuong's masterful use of language is crucial to the novel's impact. His prose is poetic, visceral, and emotionally charged. He employs vivid imagery and powerful metaphors to capture the essence of his characters' experiences, creating a truly immersive reading experience. The lyrical beauty of his writing elevates the narrative, transforming a painful story into a work of art that transcends the suffering it depicts.

The Enduring Legacy: A Lasting Impact

On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous isn't just a story; it's an experience. It challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about themselves and the world around them. The novel's exploration of intergenerational trauma, the complexities of family relationships, and the resilience of the human spirit leave a lasting impression long after the final page is turned. It's a book that stays with you, prompting reflection and prompting conversations about important social issues.

Conclusion

Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous* is a powerful, moving, and unforgettable novel that deserves its widespread acclaim. Its unconventional structure, unflinching portrayal of trauma, and lyrical prose create a deeply resonant reading experience. The book's exploration of family, love, loss, and resilience will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on anyone who takes the time to engage with its complex and emotionally charged narrative. The beauty of this novel lies not just in its storytelling but also in its ability to initiate crucial conversations about the enduring power of trauma and the importance of seeking healing and understanding.

FAQs

1. Is *On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous* a difficult read?

Yes, the novel deals with sensitive and challenging topics, including trauma and abuse. While emotionally demanding, the powerful writing and profound themes make it a rewarding read for those willing to engage with its difficult subject matter.

2. Who is the target audience for this book?

While there's no specific age restriction, the novel's mature themes make it most suitable for adult readers. Those interested in literary fiction, exploring themes of trauma and resilience, or examining the immigrant experience will find it particularly compelling.

3. What makes *On Earth We Were Briefly Gorgeous* unique?

The novel's unique epistolary structure, combined with Vuong's lyrical prose and unflinching exploration of trauma, sets it apart. The combination of poetic language and raw emotional honesty creates a deeply moving and unforgettable reading experience.

4. Does the book offer a sense of hope?

While the novel explores profound darkness, it ultimately offers a message of resilience and the possibility of healing. Despite the immense suffering depicted, there's an underlying thread of hope and the enduring power of human connection.

5. Is the book suitable for book clubs?

Absolutely! The novel's complex themes and compelling narrative make it an excellent choice for book clubs. It provides ample opportunity for rich discussions about family dynamics, trauma, identity, and the immigrant experience.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous Ocean Vuong, 2019-06-04 The instant New York Times Bestseller • Nominated for the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction "A lyrical work of self-discovery that's shockingly intimate and insistently universal...Not so much briefly gorgeous as permanently stunning." —Ron Charles, The Washington Post Ocean Vuong's debut novel is a shattering portrait of a family, a first love, and the redemptive power of storytelling *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born — a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam — and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. Asking questions central to our American moment, immersed as we are in addiction, violence, and trauma, but undergirded

by compassion and tenderness, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard. With stunning urgency and grace, Ocean Vuong writes of people caught between disparate worlds, and asks how we heal and rescue one another without forsaking who we are. The question of how to survive, and how to make of it a kind of joy, powers the most important debut novel of many years. Named a Best Book of the Year by: GQ, Kirkus Reviews, Booklist, Library Journal, TIME, Esquire, The Washington Post, Apple, Good Housekeeping, The New Yorker, The New York Public Library, Elle.com, The Guardian, The A.V. Club, NPR, Lithub, Entertainment Weekly, Vogue.com, The San Francisco Chronicle, Mother Jones, Vanity Fair, The Wall Street Journal Magazine and more!

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Night Sky with Exit Wounds Ocean Vuong, 2016-05-23 Winner of the 2016 Whiting Award One of Publishers Weekly's Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2016 One of Lit Hub's 10 must-read poetry collections for April "Reading Vuong is like watching a fish move: he manages the varied currents of English with muscled intuition. His poems are by turns graceful and wonderstruck. His lines are both long and short, his pose narrative and lyric, his diction formal and insouciant. From the outside, Vuong has fashioned a poetry of inclusion."—The New Yorker *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* establishes Vuong as a fierce new talent to be reckoned with...This book is a masterpiece that captures, with elegance, the raw sorrows and joys of human existence.—Buzzfeed's Most Exciting New Books of 2016 This original, sprightly wordsmith of tumbling pulsing phrases pushes poetry to a new level...A stunning introduction to a young poet who writes with both assurance and vulnerability. Visceral, tender and lyrical, fleet and agile, these poems unflinchingly face the legacies of violence and cultural displacement but they also assume a position of wonder before the world."—2016 Whiting Award citation *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* is the kind of book that soon becomes worn with love. You will want to crease every page to come back to it, to underline every other line because each word resonates with power.—LitHub Vuong's powerful voice explores passion, violence, history, identity—all with a tremendous humanity.—Slate "In his impressive debut collection, Vuong, a 2014 Ruth Lilly fellow, writes beauty into—and culls from—individual, familial, and historical traumas. Vuong exists as both observer and observed throughout the book as he explores deeply personal themes such as poverty, depression, queer sexuality, domestic abuse, and the various forms of violence inflicted on his family during the Vietnam War. Poems float and strike in equal measure as the poet strives to transform pain into clarity. Managing this balance becomes the crux of the collection, as when he writes, 'Your father is only your father/ until one of you forgets. Like how the spine/ won't remember its wings/ no matter how many times our knees/ kiss the pavement.'"—Publishers Weekly What a treasure [Ocean Vuong] is to us. What a perfume he's crushed and rendered of his heart and soul. What a gift this book is.—Li-Young Lee *Torso of Air* Suppose you do change your life. & the body is more than a portion of night—sealed with bruises. Suppose you woke & found your shadow replaced by a black wolf. The boy, beautiful & gone. So you take the knife to the wall instead. You carve & carve until a coin of light appears & you get to look in, at last, on happiness. The eye staring back from the other side—waiting. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, Ocean Vuong attended Brooklyn College. He is the author of two chapbooks as well as a full-length collection, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*. A 2014 Ruth Lilly Fellow and winner of the 2016 Whiting Award, Ocean Vuong lives in New York City, New York.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Time Is a Mother Ocean Vuong, 2022-04-05 The New York Times bestselling collection of poems from the award-winning writer Ocean Vuong Take your time with these poems, and return to them often." —The Washington Post How else do we return to ourselves but to fold The page so it points to the good part In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Ocean Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother's death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it. Shifting through memory, and in concert with the themes of his novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Vuong contends with personal loss, the meaning of family, and the cost of being the product of an American war in America. At once vivid, brave, and propulsive, Vuong's poems circle fragmented lives to find both restoration as well as the epicenter of the break. The author of the critically acclaimed poetry

collection *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, winner of the 2016 Whiting Award, the 2017 T. S. Eliot Prize, and a 2019 MacArthur fellow, Vuong writes directly to our humanity without losing sight of the current moment. These poems represent a more innovative and daring experimentation with language and form, illuminating how the themes we perennially live in and question are truly inexhaustible. Bold and prescient, and a testament to tenderness in the face of violence, *Time Is a Mother* is a return and a forging forth all at once.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Illness Lesson* Clare Beams, 2020-02-11 A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE • FINALIST FOR THE 2023 JOYCE CAROL OATES PRIZE • From the author of the award-winning debut story collection *We Show What We Have Learned*, an atoundingly original" (The New York Times Book Review) work of historical fiction with shocking and eerie connections to our own time. At their newly founded school, Samuel Hood and his daughter, Caroline, promise a groundbreaking education for young women. But Caroline has grave misgivings. After all, her own unconventional education has left her unmarriedable and isolated, unsuited to the narrow roles afforded women in nineteenth-century New England. When a mysterious flock of red birds descends on the town, Caroline alone seems to find them unsettling. But it's not long before the assembled students begin to manifest bizarre symptoms: rashes, seizures, headaches, verbal tics, night wanderings. One by one, they sicken. Fearing ruin for the school, Samuel overrules Caroline's pleas to inform the girls' parents and turns instead to a noted physician, a man whose sinister ministrations—based on a shocking historic treatment—horrify Caroline. As the men around her continue to dictate, disastrously, all terms of the girls' experience, Caroline's own body begins to betray her. To save herself and her young charges, she will have to defy every rule that has governed her life, her mind, her body, and her world.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Burnings* Ocean Vuong, 2010 The poetry explore refugee culture, be the speaker a literal refugee from a torn homeland, or a refugee from his own skin, burning with the heat of awakening eroticism. In this world, we're all refugees from something.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Run Me to Earth* Paul Yoon, 2020-01-28 From award-winning author Paul Yoon comes a beautiful, aching novel about three kids orphaned in 1960s Laos—and how their destinies are entwined across decades, anointed by Hernan Diaz as "one of those rare novels that stays with us to become a standard with which we measure other books." Alisak, Prany, and Noi—three orphans united by devastating loss—must do what is necessary to survive the perilous landscape of 1960s Laos. When they take shelter in a bombed out field hospital, they meet Vang, a doctor dedicated to helping the wounded at all costs. Soon the teens are serving as motorcycle couriers, delicately navigating their bikes across the fields filled with unexploded bombs, beneath the indiscriminate barrage from the sky. In a world where the landscape and the roads have turned into an ocean of bombs, we follow their grueling days of rescuing civilians and searching for medical supplies, until Vang secures their evacuation on the last helicopters leaving the country. It's a move with irrevocable consequences—and sets them on disparate and treacherous paths across the world. Spanning decades and magically weaving together storylines laced with beauty and cruelty, Paul Yoon crafts a gorgeous story that is a breathtaking historical feat and a fierce study of the powers of hope, perseverance, and grace.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *When Grit Isn't Enough* Linda F. Nathan, 2017-10-17 Examines major myths informing American education and explores how educators can better serve students, increase college retention rates, and develop alternatives to college that don't disadvantage students on the basis of race or income Each year, as the founding headmaster of the Boston Arts Academy (BAA), an urban high school that boasts a 94 percent college acceptance rate, Linda Nathan made a promise to the incoming freshmen: "All of you will graduate from high school and go on to college or a career." After fourteen years at the helm, Nathan stepped down and took stock of her alumni: of those who went to college, a third dropped out. Feeling like she failed to fulfill her promise, Nathan reflected on ideas she and others have perpetuated about education: that college is for all, that hard work and determination are enough to get you through, that America is a land of equality. In *When Grit Isn't Enough*, Nathan investigates five assumptions that inform our

ideas about education today, revealing how these beliefs mask systemic inequity. Seeing a rift between these false promises and the lived experiences of her students, she argues that it is time for educators to face these uncomfortable issues head-on and explores how educators can better serve all students, increase college retention rates, and develop alternatives to college that don't disadvantage students on the basis of race or income. Drawing on the voices of BAA alumni whose stories provide a window through which to view urban education today, *When Grit Isn't Enough* helps imagine greater purposes for schooling.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Reading Group Choices* Reading Group Choices, 2008

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Elegy in a Country Churchyard* Thomas Gray, 1888

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *From Our Land to Our Land* Luis J. Rodriguez, 2020-01-28

Luis J. Rodriguez writes about race, culture, identity, and belonging and what these all mean and should mean (but often fail to) in the volatile climate of our nation. His passion and wisdom inspire us with the message that we must come together if we are to move forward. As he writes in the preface, "Like millions of Americans, I'm demanding a new vision, a qualitatively different direction, for this country. One for the shared well-being of everyone. One with beauty, healing, poetry, imagination, and truth." The pieces in *From Our Land to Our Land* capture that same fantastic energy and wisdom and will spark conversation and inspiration.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *On Beauty and Being Just* Elaine Scarry, 2013-03-21 Have we become beauty-blind? For two decades or more in the humanities, various political arguments have been put forward against beauty: that it distracts us from more important issues; that it is the handmaiden of privilege; and that it masks political interests. In *On Beauty and Being Just* Elaine Scarry not only defends beauty from the political arguments against it but also argues that beauty does indeed press us toward a greater concern for justice. Taking inspiration from writers and thinkers as diverse as Homer, Plato, Marcel Proust, Simone Weil, and Iris Murdoch as well as her own experiences, Scarry offers up an elegant, passionate manifesto for the revival of beauty in our intellectual work as well as our homes, museums, and classrooms. Scarry argues that our responses to beauty are perceptual events of profound significance for the individual and for society. Presenting us with a rare and exceptional opportunity to witness fairness, beauty assists us in our attention to justice. The beautiful object renders fairness, an abstract concept, concrete by making it directly available to our sensory perceptions. With its direct appeal to the senses, beauty stops us, transfixes us, fills us with a surfeit of aliveness. In so doing, it takes the individual away from the center of his or her self-preoccupation and thus prompts a distribution of attention outward toward others and, ultimately, she contends, toward ethical fairness. Scarry, author of the landmark *The Body in Pain* and one of our bravest and most creative thinkers, offers us here philosophical critique written with clarity and conviction as well as a passionate plea that we change the way we think about beauty.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Heat and Light* Ellen van Neerven, 2023-05-30 In this award-winning work of fiction, Ellen van Neerven leads readers on a journey that is mythical, mystical and still achingly real. Over three parts, van Neerven takes traditional storytelling and

gives it a unique, contemporary twist. In 'Heat', we meet several generations of the Kresinger family and the legacy left by the mysterious Pearl. In 'Water', a futuristic world is imagined and the fate of a people threatened. In 'Light', familial ties are challenged and characters are caught between a desire for freedom and a sense of belonging. Heat and Light is an intriguing collection that heralded the arrival of a major new talent in Australian writing.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Imagine Me Gone Adam Haslett, 2016-05-03 From a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, a ferociously intimate story of a family facing the ultimate question: how far will we go to save the people we love the most? When Margaret's fiancée, John, is hospitalized for depression in 1960s London, she faces a choice: carry on with their plans despite what she now knows of his condition, or back away from the suffering it may bring her. She decides to marry him. Imagine Me Gone is the unforgettable story of what unfolds from this act of love and faith. At the heart of it is their eldest son, Michael, a brilliant, anxious music fanatic who makes sense of the world through parody. Over the span of decades, his younger siblings -- the savvy and responsible Celia and the ambitious and tightly controlled Alec -- struggle along with their mother to care for Michael's increasingly troubled and precarious existence. Told in alternating points of view by all five members of the family, this searing, gut-wrenching, and yet frequently hilarious novel brings alive with remarkable depth and poignancy the love of a mother for her children, the often inescapable devotion siblings feel toward one another, and the legacy of a father's pain in the life of a family. With his striking emotional precision and lively, inventive language, Adam Haslett has given us something rare: a novel with the power to change how we see the most important people in our lives. Haslett is one of the country's most talented writers, equipped with a sixth sense for characterization-Wall Street Journal Ambitious and stirring . . . With Imagine Me Gone , Haslett has reached another level.-New York Times Book Review

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Dept. of Speculation Jenny Offill, 2014-01-28 From the acclaimed author of Weather comes a slim, stunning portrait of a marriage--a beguiling rumination on the mysteries of intimacy, trust, faith, knowledge, and the condition of universal shipwreck that unites us all. ONE OF THE 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR - THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW A Best Book of the Year: The New Yorker, The Boston Globe, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Vogue.com, Electric Literature, BuzzFeed In the beginning, it was easy to imagine their future. They were young and giddy, sure of themselves and of their love for each other. "Dept. of Speculation" was their code name for all the thrilling uncertainties that lay ahead. Then they got married, had a child and navigated the familiar calamities of family life—a colicky baby, a faltering relationship, stalled ambitions. When their marriage reaches a sudden breaking point, the wife tries to retrace the steps that have led them to this place, invoking everything from Kafka to the Stoics to doomed Russian cosmonauts as she analyzes what is lost and what remains. In language that shimmers with rage and longing and wit, Offill has created a brilliantly suspenseful love story—a novel to read in one sitting, even as its piercing meditations linger long after the last page.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Under A Dancing Star Laura Wood, 2019-07-04 In grey, 1930s England, Bea has grown up kicking against the conventions of the time, all the while knowing that she will one day have to marry someone her parents choose - someone rich enough to keep the family estate alive. But she longs for so much more - for adventure, excitement, travel, and maybe even romance. When she gets the chance to spend the summer in Italy with her bohemian uncle and his fiancée, a whole world is opened up to Bea - a world that includes Ben, a cocky young artist who just happens to be infuriatingly handsome too. Sparks fly between the quick-witted pair until one night, under the stars, a challenge is set: can Bea and Ben put aside their teasing and have the perfect summer romance? With their new friends gleefully setting the rules for their fling, Bea and Ben can agree on one thing at least: they absolutely, positively will not, cannot fall in love... A long, hot summer of kisses and mischief unfolds - but storm clouds are gathering across Europe, and home is calling. Every summer has to end - but for Bea, this might be just the beginning.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Fates and Furies Lauren Groff, 2015-09-15 A FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NAMED A BEST BOOK OF

THE YEAR BY: THE WASHINGTON POST, NPR, TIME, THE SEATTLE TIMES, MINNEAPOLIS STAR-TRIBUNE, SLATE, LIBRARY JOURNAL, KIRKUS, AND MANY MORE “Lauren Groff is a writer of rare gifts, and *Fates and Furies* is an unabashedly ambitious novel that delivers – with comedy, tragedy, well-deployed erudition and unmistakable glimmers of brilliance throughout.” —The New York Times Book Review (cover review) From the award-winning, New York Times-bestselling author of *The Monsters of Templeton*, *Arcadia*, *Florida* and *Matrix*, an exhilarating novel about marriage, creativity, art, and perception. *Fates and Furies* is a literary masterpiece that defies expectation. A dazzling examination of a marriage, it is also a portrait of creative partnership written by one of the best writers of her generation. Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. At the core of this rich, expansive, layered novel, Lauren Groff presents the story of one such marriage over the course of twenty-four years. At age twenty-two, Lotto and Mathilde are tall, glamorous, madly in love, and destined for greatness. A decade later, their marriage is still the envy of their friends, but with an electric thrill we understand that things are even more complicated and remarkable than they have seemed. With stunning revelations and multiple threads, and in prose that is vibrantly alive and original, Groff delivers a deeply satisfying novel about love, art, creativity, and power that is unlike anything that has come before it. Profound, surprising, propulsive, and emotionally riveting, it stirs both the mind and the heart.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Ghostographs Maria Romasco Moore, 2018 Fiction and Vintage Photographs; Hybrid work; novella-in-flash; text-image work. This book is composed of short stories that each have a vintage black and white photograph across from them that the short story refers to. The stories are connected (have recurring setting and characters) to make a longer novella-in-short-stories. The photos are key to the book. Jacket copy: Every old photo album contains a multitude of mysteries--the people who came before. Maria Romasco Moore's eerie and incandescent novella-in-flash *Ghostographs* is no exception. Brief, crystalline stories combine with vintage photographs to illuminate the hidden terrain of childhood and the pain of growing up, all in one small town at the edge of an abyss where the narrator comes of age among family, friends, and phantoms. It's a place populated with charming and unforgettable characters, where housewives send away for mail-order babies and young girls glow on front porches on hot summer nights. Where men get in staring contests with lamps and great aunts live in castles and collect haunted dogs. Where games of hide and seek refuse to end. It's a town full of secrets, where the hardships of adulthood threaten to invade the wild and magical domain of children. Haunting and evocative, funny and strange, the world of *Ghostographs* may be memory or might just be a trick of the light--

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Mostly Dead Things Kristen Arnett, 2020-04-21 The celebrated New York Times Bestseller A Best Book of the Year pick at the New York Times, NPR, The New Yorker, TIME, Washington Post, Oprahmag.com, Thrillist, Shelf Awareness, Good Housekeeping and more. What does it take to come back to life? For Jessa-Lynn Morton, the question is not an abstract one. In the wake of her father's suicide, Jessa has stepped up to manage his failing taxidermy business while the rest of the Morton family crumbles. Her mother starts sneaking into the taxidermy shop to make provocative animal art, while her brother, Milo, withdraws. And Brynn, Milo's wife—and the only person Jessa's ever been in love with—walks out without a word. It's not until the Mortons reach a tipping point that a string of unexpected incidents begins to open up surprising possibilities and second chances. But will they be enough to salvage this family, to help them find their way back to one another? Kristen Arnett's breakout bestseller is a darkly funny family portrait; a peculiar, bighearted look at love and loss and the ways we live through them together.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Murmur Will Eaves, 2019-04-11 Winner of the 2019 Wellcome Book Prize Winner of the 2019 Republic of Consciousness Prize Shortlisted for the 2018 Goldsmiths Prize Shortlisted for the 2019 James Tait Black Prize Longlisted for the 2019 Rathbones Folio Prize Taking its cue from the arrest and legally enforced chemical castration of the mathematician Alan Turing, *Murmur* is the account of a man who responds to intolerable physical

and mental stress with love, honour and a rigorous, unsentimental curiosity about the ways in which we perceive ourselves and the world. Formally audacious, daring in its intellectual inquiry and unwaveringly humane, Will Eaves's *Murmur* is a rare achievement.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Mourning Diary Roland Barthes, 2012-03-13 In the sentence 'She's no longer suffering,' to what, to whom does 'she' refer? What does that present tense mean? —Roland Barthes, from his diary *The day after his mother's death* in October 1977, Roland Barthes began a diary of mourning. For nearly two years, the legendary French theorist wrote about a solitude new to him; about the ebb and flow of sadness; about the slow pace of mourning, and life reclaimed through writing. Named a Top 10 Book of 2010 by *The New York Times* and one of the Best Books of 2010 by *Slate* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Mourning Diary* is a major discovery in Roland Barthes's work: a skeleton key to the themes he tackled throughout his life, as well as a unique study of grief—intimate, deeply moving, and universal.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Memorial Bryan Washington, 2020-10-27 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK Named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *TIME*, *NPR*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Vanity Fair*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Marie Claire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Refinery29*, *Real Simple*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Electric Literature*, and *Lit Hub* "A masterpiece." —*NPR* "No other novel this year captures so gracefully the full palette of America." —*The Washington Post* "Wryly funny, gently devastating." —*Entertainment Weekly* A funny and profound story about family in all its strange forms, joyful and hard-won vulnerability, becoming who you're supposed to be, and the limits of love. Benson and Mike are two young guys who live together in Houston. Mike is a Japanese American chef at a Mexican restaurant and Benson's a Black day care teacher, and they've been together for a few years—good years—but now they're not sure why they're still a couple. There's the sex, sure, and the meals Mike cooks for Benson, and, well, they love each other. But when Mike finds out his estranged father is dying in Osaka just as his acerbic Japanese mother, Mitsuko, arrives in Texas for a visit, Mike picks up and flies across the world to say goodbye. In Japan he undergoes an extraordinary transformation, discovering the truth about his family and his past. Back home, Mitsuko and Benson are stuck living together as unconventional roommates, an absurd domestic situation that ends up meaning more to each of them than they ever could have predicted. Without Mike's immediate pull, Benson begins to push outwards, realizing he might just know what he wants out of life and have the goods to get it. Both men will change in ways that will either make them stronger together, or fracture everything they've ever known. And just maybe they'll all be okay in the end.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Attraction Ruby Porter, 2019-05-07 Winner of the inaugural Michael Giffkins Prize for an Unpublished Novel, Ruby Porter is an exciting new voice in New Zealand literature.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: The Vacationers Emma Straub, 2014-05-29 Delicious . . . richly riveting . . . *The Vacationers* offers all the delights of a fluffy, read-it-with-sunglasses-on-the-beach read, made substantial by the exceptional wit, insight, intelligence and talents of its author."—*People* (four stars) An irresistible, deftly observed novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *Modern Lovers*, about the secrets, joys, and jealousies that rise to the surface over the course of an American family's two-week stay in Mallorca. For the Posts, a two-week trip to the Balearic island of Mallorca with their extended family and friends is a celebration: Franny and Jim are observing their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary, and their daughter, Sylvia, has graduated from high school. The sunlit island, its mountains and beaches, its tapas and tennis courts, also promise an escape from the tensions simmering at home in Manhattan. But all does not go according to plan: over the course of the vacation, secrets come to light, old and new humiliations are experienced, childhood rivalries resurface, and ancient wounds are exacerbated. This is a story of the sides of ourselves that we choose to show and those we try to conceal, of the ways we tear each other down and build each other up again, and the bonds that ultimately hold us together. With wry humor and tremendous heart, Emma Straub delivers a richly satisfying story of a

family in the midst of a maelstrom of change, emerging irrevocably altered yet whole.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Absolutist* John Boyne, 2012-04-10 September 1919: Twenty-year-old Tristan Sadler takes a train from London to Norwich to deliver a clutch of letters to Marian Bancroft. Tristan fought alongside Marian's brother Will during the Great War. They trained together. They fought together. But in 1917, Will laid down his guns on the battlefield and declared himself a conscientious objector, an act which has brought shame and dishonour on the Bancroft family. The letters, however, are not the real reason for Tristan's visit. He holds a secret deep within him. One that he is desperate to unburden himself of to Marian, if he can only find the courage. Whatever happens, this meeting will change his life – forever.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country* Pam Houston, 2019-01-29 Winner of the 2020 Reading the West Advocacy Award Winner of the 2020 Colorado Book Award for Creative Nonfiction This is a book for all of us, right now. —Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild* On her 120-acre homestead high in the Colorado Rockies, beloved writer Pam Houston learns what it means to care for a piece of land and the creatures on it. Elk calves and bluebirds mark the changing seasons, winter temperatures drop to 35 below, and lightning sparks a 110,000-acre wildfire, threatening her century-old barn and all its inhabitants. Through her travels from the Gulf of Mexico to Alaska, she explores what ties her to the earth, the ranch most of all. Alongside her devoted Irish wolfhounds and a spirited troupe of horses, donkeys, and Icelandic sheep, the ranch becomes Houston's sanctuary, a place where she discovers how the natural world has mothered and healed her after a childhood of horrific parental abuse and neglect. In essays as lucid and invigorating as mountain air, *Deep Creek* delivers Houston's most profound meditations yet on how "to live simultaneously inside the wonder and the grief... to love the damaged world and do what I can to help it thrive."

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Rented Altar* Lauren Berry, 2020-09-15 Lauren Berry's second collection follows a young bride as she becomes a stepmother in the domestic maze of a Floridian suburb where she discovers she is unable to conceive a child of her own.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Boyfriend Material* Alexis Hall, 2020-07-07 It's a fun, frothy quintessentially British romcom about a certified chaos demon and a stern brunch daddy with a heart of gold faking a relationship.—New York Times bestselling author Talia Hibbert AMAZON BEST BOOK OF THE MONTH Named a best book of the year by Oprah Magazine, Entertainment Weekly, Goodreads, The Washington Post, and more! WANTED: One (fake) boyfriend Practically perfect in every way Luc O'Donnell is tangentially—and reluctantly—famous. His rock star parents split when he was young, and the father he's never met spent the next twenty years cruising in and out of rehab. Now that his dad's making a comeback, Luc's back in the public eye, and one compromising photo is enough to ruin everything. To clean up his image, Luc has to find a nice, normal relationship...and Oliver Blackwood is as nice and normal as they come. He's a barrister, an ethical vegetarian, and he's never inspired a moment of scandal in his life. In other words: perfect boyfriend material. Unfortunately, apart from being gay, single, and really, really in need of a date for a big event, Luc and Oliver have nothing in common. So they strike a deal to be publicity-friendly (fake) boyfriends until the dust has settled. Then they can go their separate ways and pretend it never happened. But the thing about fake-dating is that it can feel a lot like real-dating. And that's when you get used to someone. Start falling for them. Don't ever want to let them go. Discover the LGBT romance about exact opposites falling in perfectly imperfect love that New York Times and USA Today bestselling author CHRISTINA LAUREN calls hilarious, witty, tender, and stunning.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *How to Cure a Ghost* Fariha Róisín, 2019-09-24 A poetry compilation recounting a woman's journey from self-loathing to self-acceptance, confusion to clarity, and bitterness to forgiveness Following in the footsteps of such category killers as Milk and Honey and Whiskey Words & a Shovel I, Fariha Ro'i's poetry book is a collection of her thoughts as a young, queer, Muslim femme navigating the difficulties of her intersectionality. Simultaneously, this compilation unpacks the contentious relationship that exists between Ro'i's and her mother, her platonic and romantic heartbreaks, and the cognitive dissonance felt as a result of being so divided

among her broad spectrum of identities.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Last Station* Nicole Alexander, 2023-03-14

'Unputdownable ... epitomising the great Australian novel.' Anita Heiss 'A warm and uniquely Australian story.' Herald Sun In nineteenth-century New South Wales, the name Dalhunny stood for prosperity and prestige. The family's vast station was home to more than 80 people, and each year their premium wool was shipped down the bustling Darling River to be sold in South Australia. Yet, just decades later, Dalhunny Station is on the brink of ruin . . . In the summer of 1909, eccentric Benjamin Dalhunny and his son Julian anxiously await the arrival of the Lady Matilda, the first paddle-steamer to navigate the river in more than two years. It will transport their very last wool clip to market. Twenty-year-old Julian wants more from life than the crumbling station, but as the eldest son his future has been set since birth. Until the day his mother invites a streetwise young man from Sydney into their home . . . Ethan Harris's arrival shines a light on a family at breaking point. But he also unwittingly offers Julian an escape, as the young men embark on a perilous journey down the Darling and west into untamed lands. *The Last Station* is a captivating story of heritage, heartbreak and hope, set during the dying days of the riverboat trade along the Darling River. 'An enthralling, gritty adventure... Bursting with pathos, humour and folklore.' Michael Burge author of *Tank Water* 'A captivating story... Evocative, engrossing and entertaining.' Alison Booth author of *The Painting*

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Writing Skills Success in 20 Minutes a Day Learningexpress LLC, 2012 For students new to the rules of writing, or those who need a quick refresher, *Writing Skills Success in 20 Minutes a Day* provides 20 lessons that promote an in-depth understanding of writing in a short amount of time. Why waste hours when just 20 minutes a day gives students the writing fundamentals they need? This book provides vital instruction for language arts mastery and demonstrates the importance of writing in real-world situations.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: How To Read A Poem Edward Hirsch, 1999-03-22 From the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning poet and critic: "A lovely book, full of joy and wisdom." —The Baltimore Sun *How to Read a Poem* is an unprecedented exploration of poetry, feeling, and human nature. In language at once acute and emotional, Edward Hirsch describes why poetry matters and how we can open up our imaginations so that its message can make a difference. In a marvelous reading of verse from around the world, including work by Pablo Neruda, Elizabeth Bishop, Wallace Stevens, and Sylvia Plath, among many others, Hirsch discovers the true meaning of their words and ideas and brings their sublime message home into our hearts. "Hirsch has gathered an eclectic group of poems from many times and places, with selections as varied as postwar Polish poetry, works by Keats and Christopher Smart, and lyrics from African American work songs . . . Hirsch suggests helpful strategies for understanding and appreciating each poem. The book is scholarly but very readable and incorporates interesting anecdotes from the lives of the poets." —Library Journal "The answer Hirsch gives to the question of how to read a poem is: Ecstatically." —Boston Book Review "Hirsch's magnificent text is supported by an extensive glossary and superb international reading list." —Booklist "If you are pretty sure you don't like poetry, this is the book that's bound to change your mind." —Charles Simic, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The World Doesn't End*

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Modern Lovers Emma Straub, 2016-05-31 "It's 'Friends' meets 'Almost Famous' meets the beach read you'll be recommending all summer." —TheSkimm From the author of the New York Times bestsellers *All Adults Here* and *This Time Tomorrow*, a smart, highly entertaining novel about a tight-knit group of friends from college— and what it means to finally grow up, well after adulthood has set in. Friends and former college bandmates Elizabeth and Andrew and Zoe have watched one another marry, buy real estate, and start businesses and families, all while trying to hold on to the identities of their youth. But nothing ages them like having to suddenly pass the torch (of sexuality, independence, and the ineffable alchemy of cool) to their own offspring. Back in the band's heyday, Elizabeth put on a snarl over her Midwestern smile, Andrew let his unwashed hair grow past his chin, and Zoe was the lesbian all the straight women wanted to sleep with. Now nearing fifty, they all live within shouting distance in the same

neighborhood deep in gentrified Brooklyn, and the trappings of the adult world seem to have arrived with ease. But the summer that their children reach maturity (and start sleeping together), the fabric of the adult lives suddenly begins to unravel, and the secrets and revelations that are finally let loose—about themselves, and about the famous fourth band member who soared and fell without them—can never be reclaimed. Straub packs wisdom and insight and humor together in a satisfying book about neighbors and nosiness, ambition and pleasure, the excitement of youth, the shock of middle age, and the fact that our passions—be they food, or friendship, or music—never go away, they just evolve and grow along with us.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: Amphigorey Also Edward Gorey, 1993 Drawings (including thirty-two pages in color), captions, and verse showcasing Gorey's unique talents and humor. The Glorious Nosebleed, The Utter Zoo, The Epileptic Bicycle, and fourteen other selections.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *The Power of the Dog* Thomas Savage, Annie Proulx, 2009-09-26 Now an Academy Award-winning Netflix film by Jane Campion, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Kirsten Dunst: Thomas Savage's acclaimed Western is a pitch-perfect evocation of time and place (Boston Globe) for fans of *East of Eden* and *Brokeback Mountain*. Set in the wide-open spaces of the American West, *The Power of the Dog* is a stunning story of domestic tyranny, brutal masculinity, and thrilling defiance from one of the most powerful and distinctive voices in American literature. The novel tells the story of two brothers — one magnetic but cruel, the other gentle and quiet — and of the mother and son whose arrival on the brothers' ranch shatters an already tenuous peace. From the novel's startling first paragraph to its very last word, Thomas Savage's voice — and the intense passion of his characters — holds readers in thrall. Gripping and powerful...A work of literary art. —Annie Proulx, from her afterword

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *How Long 'til Black Future Month?* N. K. Jemisin, 2018-11-27 Three-time Hugo Award winner and NYT bestselling author N. K. Jemisin challenges and delights readers with thought-provoking narratives of destruction, rebirth, and redemption that sharply examine modern society in her first collection of short fiction, which includes never-before-seen stories. Marvelous and wide-ranging. -- Los Angeles Times *Gorgeous* -- NPR Books *Breathtakingly imaginative and narratively bold.* -- Entertainment Weekly *Spirits haunt the flooded streets of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, trying to learn from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow South must save her daughter from a fey offering impossible promises. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story *The City Born Great*, a young street kid fights to give birth to an old metropolis's soul.*

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *With Teeth* Kristen Arnett, 2022-05-31 NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST, VOGUE, MARIE CLAIRE, READER'S DIGEST, AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING "A gripping read...Unabashedly queer, probing and unafraid...Exceedingly engaging." -USA Today "Sublimely weird, fluently paced, brazenly funny and gayer still, and it richly deserves to find readers." -New York Times From the author of the New York Times bestselling sensation *Mostly Dead Things*: a surprising and moving story of two mothers, one difficult son, and the limitations of marriage, parenthood, and love If she's being honest, Sammie Lucas is scared of her son. Working from home in the close quarters of their Florida house, she lives with one wary eye peeled on Samson, a sullen, unknowable boy who resists her every attempt to bond with him. Uncertain in her own feelings about motherhood, she tries her best—driving, cleaning, cooking, prodding him to finish projects for school—while growing increasingly resentful of Monika, her confident but absent wife. As Samson grows from feral toddler to surly teenager, Sammie's life begins to deteriorate into a mess of unruly behavior, and her struggle to create a picture-perfect queer family unravels. When her son's hostility finally spills over into physical aggression, Sammie must confront her role in the mess—and the possibility that it will never be clean again. Blending the warmth and wit of Arnett's breakout hit, *Mostly Dead Things*, with a candid take on queer family dynamics, *With Teeth* is a thought-provoking portrait of the delicate fabric of family—and the many ways it can be torn apart.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *A Thousand Mornings* Mary Oliver, 2018-04-05 I go down to the shore in the morning and depending on the hour the waves are rolling in or moving out, and I say, oh, I am miserable, what shall- what should I do? And the sea says in its lovely voice: Excuse me, I have work to do. Whether studying the leaves of a tree or mourning her treasured dog Percy, Mary Oliver is beautifully open to the teachings contained within the smallest of moments. In *A Thousand Mornings* she explores, with startling clarity, humour and kindness, the mysteries of our daily experience.

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *No* Ocean Vuong, 2013

on earth were briefly gorgeous: *Another Brooklyn* Jacqueline Woodson, 2016-08-09 A Finalist for the 2016 National Book Award New York Times Bestseller A SeattleTimes pick for Summer Reading Roundup 2017 The acclaimed New York Times bestselling and National Book Award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* delivers her first adult novel in twenty years. Running into a long-ago friend sets memory from the 1970s in motion for August, transporting her to a time and a place where friendship was everything—until it wasn't. For August and her girls, sharing confidences as they ambled through neighborhood streets, Brooklyn was a place where they believed that they were beautiful, talented, brilliant—a part of a future that belonged to them. But beneath the hopeful veneer, there was another Brooklyn, a dangerous place where grown men reached for innocent girls in dark hallways, where ghosts haunted the night, where mothers disappeared. A world where madness was just a sunset away and fathers found hope in religion. Like Louise Meriwether's *Daddy Was a Number Runner* and Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*, Jacqueline Woodson's *Another Brooklyn* heartbreakingly illuminates the formative time when childhood gives way to adulthood—the promise and peril of growing up—and exquisitely renders a powerful, indelible, and fleeting friendship that united four young lives.

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