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## Cowboys Are My Weakness: Stories

**W. W. Norton & Company "Exhilarating, like a swift ride through river rapids with a spunky, sexy gal handling the oars."—Washington Post Book World In Pam Houston's critically acclaimed collection of strong, shrewd, and very funny stories, we meet smart women who are looking for the love of a good man, and men who are wild and hard to pin down. "I've always had this thing for cowboys, maybe because I was born in New Jersey," says the narrator in the collection's title story. "But a real cowboy is hard to find these days, even in the West." Our heroines are part daredevil, part philosopher, all acute observers of the nuances of modern romance. They go where their cowboys go, they meet cowboys who don't look the part - and they have staunch friends who give them advice when the going gets rough. Cowboys Are My Weakness is a refreshing and realistic look at men and women - together and apart.**

## Cowboys are My Weakness

## Stories

A collection of short stories about smart, heroic, philosophical women in search of a few good men features a tale of a Jersey girl looking out for a cowboy. NYT. PW. Reprint.

### Waltzing the Cat

W. W. Norton & Company "Fat with meaning . . . tastes oh so sinfully good." —Washington Post Book World Ever since the publication of *Cowboys Are My Weakness*, Pam Houston's fans have clamored for more from the woman with a penchant for the laconic men of the West. Now, in eleven linked fictions featuring a peripatetic photographer named Lucy O'Rourke, Houston serves up once more her charismatic blend of relationships and adventure. This is the story of one woman's struggle for balance in a world that keeps pitching and rolling under her feet. Dislocated geographically and spiritually, Lucy is prone to the wrong decisions at all the critical times; what's more, natural disasters just seem to find her: an accident on a rafting trip in Cataract Canyon, a grand cayman attack in the Amazon, a hurricane in the Gulf Stream—not to mention a few natural disasters in the form of men. A surprise encounter with Carlos Castenada convinces her that she isn't living the right life, and his cryptic message sends her back to her beloved Rocky Mountains. There, on a ranch, she takes comfort in animals, the jagged landscape of Colorado, and the sage advice of women friends; she even gives a man a try. Most important, for the first time she reconnects with parts of herself she didn't remember losing. "Pam Houston taps into our souls," one reader has said. "She could write my diary better than I can."

### Pam Houston's *Cowboys are My Weakness*

#### Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country

W. W. Norton & Company "How do we become who we are in the world? We ask the world to teach us." 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."

## A Little More About Me

Simon and Schuster The author of *Cowboys Are My Weakness* and *Waltzing the Cat* turns her appealing, humorous vision to a collection of true-life adventures set in Bhutan, Bolivia, Traverse City, and other exotic locales. Readers Club Guide available. Reprint.

## Contents May Have Shifted: A Novel

W. W. Norton & Company "An absorbing, generous, ravishing book by a high priestess of you-have-to-read-this prose." —Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild* Pam Houston, an "early master of the art of rendering fiercely independent, brilliant women in love with the wrong men" (Sarah Norris, Barnes & Noble Review), delivers a novel that whisks us from one breathtaking precipice to the next. Along the way, we unravel the story of Pam (a character not unlike the author), a fearless traveler aiming to leave her metaphorical baggage behind as she seeks a comfort zone in the air. With the help of a loyal cast of friends, body workers, and a new partner who helps her to be at home, she finally finds something like ground under her feet.

## Ecofeminism and the Great Goddess

# In Pam Houston's Cowboys are My Weakness and Waltzing the Cat Women on Hunting

**Hopewell, NJ : Ecco Press** The author of the critically acclaimed bestseller *Cowboys are My Weakness* has drawn together a collection of texts that explores territories most often left for men. From the perspectives of both the hunter and the hunted, here are rich and varied works by Margaret Atwood, Anne Beattie, Joyce Carol Oates, Annie Dillard, Louise Erdrich, and others.

## Sight Hound: A Novel

**W. W. Norton & Company** In his endeavor to teach his human, Rae, about the power of love over fear, wolfhound Dante simultaneously impacts the lives of Rae's housekeeper, her therapist, two veterinarians, anxiety-ridden actor Howard, fellow dog Rose, and Stanley the cat. By the author of *Cowboys Are My Weakness*. Reader's Guide included. Reprint. 30,000 first printing.

## A Rough Guide to the Heart

**Virago Press** In these essays, Pam Houston treats us to a celebration of her real-life adventures which range over five years and five continents. But whatever Houston's destination - whether Bhutan or Bolivia or Traverse City - it is only the starting point from which she extracts her personal emotional journey. She is searching here for a place - not too safe but not too threatening - from which to negotiate mountain goats and river ice, camping trips and wine. Through her we meet some good dogs, a few good men, and the occasional grizzly. There's a horse named Roany with the presence of a Zen master. And there's a Buddhist named Karma, all proving what Houston has always suspected: fiction has nothing on real life.

# Cowboys are My Weakness

Virago Press These 12 tales tell of the pleasures of dancing the two-step at the Stockgrowers Ball, the pity of stalking beautiful beasts, the comforting companionship of dogs, the challenge of a tetch horse and, of course, of love, sex and loss.

## Cowboys Are My Weakness B Bc Only

Orbit Books

### Dirt

## A Love Story

University Press of New England Community farms. Mud spas. Mineral paints. Nematodes. The world is waking up to the beauty and mystery of dirt. This anthology celebrates the Earth's generous crust, bringing together essays by award-winning scientists, authors, artists, and dirt lovers to tell dirt's exuberant tales. Geographically broad and topically diverse, these essays reveal life as lived by dirt fanatics - admiring the first worm of spring, taking a childhood twirl across a dusty Kansas farm, calculating how soil breathes, or baking mud pies. Essayists build a dirt house, center a marriage around dirt, sink down into marshy heaven, and learn to read dirt's own language. Scientists usher us deep underground with the worms and mycorrhizae to explore the vast and largely ignored natural processes occurring beneath our feet. Whether taking a trek to Venezuela to touch the oldest dirt in the world or reveling in the blessings of our own native soils, these muscular essays answer the important question: How do you get down with dirt? A literary homage to dirt and its significance in our lives, this book will interest hikers, gardeners, teachers, urbanites, farmers, environmentalists, ecologists, and others intrigued by our planet's alluring skin. Essayists include Vandana Shiva, Peter Heller, Janisse Ray, Bernd Heinrich, Linda Hogan, Wes Jackson, BK Loren, David Montgomery, Laura Pritchett, and Deborah Koons Garcia.

# Laughing at the Darkness: Postmodernism and Optimism in American Humour

## Postmodernism and Optimism in American Humour

**Humanities-Ebooks** Paul McDonald's book is the second in our Contemporary American Literature series, edited by Christopher Gair and Alik Varvogli. Given that postmodernism has been associated with doubt, chaos, relativism and the disappearance of reality, it may appear difficult to reconcile with American optimism. *Laughing at the Darkness* demonstrates that this is not always the case. In examining the work of, among others, Sherman Alexie, Woody Allen, Douglas Coupland, Jonathan Safran Foer, Bill Hicks, David Mamet, and Philip Roth, McDonald shows how American humorists bring their comedy to bear on some of the negative implications of philosophical postmodernism and, in so doing, explore ways of reclaiming value.

## Mustang

## The Saga of the Wild Horse in the American West

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** A panoramic study of the role of the wild horse in the history and popular culture of the American West traces the history of the mustang and profiles some notable characters--equine and human alike--in that history.

## A Study Guide for Pam Houston's "The Best Girlfriend"

## You Never Had"

**Gale, Cengage Learning A Study Guide for Pam Houston's "The Best Girlfriend You Never Had," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.**

## Cowboys Are My Weakness B D/Bx25

## The Sharpest Sight

**University of Oklahoma Press When Attis McCurtain, a Vietnam veteran of mixed Choctaw and other origins, dies, his uncle commands Attis' younger brother Cole to find and bury his brother's bones, and in the process Cole and his friend Mundo Morales come to terms with their mixed heritages**

## Woman's Best Friend

## Women Writers on the Dogs in Their Lives

**Hachette UK They may be known as man's best friend, but as the writers in this poignant, funny, and dramatic collection know, there's no gender divide when it comes to canines. Whether walking down the street, gathering at the dog park, hitting the open road, or spending one too many nights together on the couch in front of the TV, a woman and her dog are an enduring pair. And there are many who consider their dogs to be members of their family and themselves to be full-fledged dog moms, even if they're single. From the family dog who takes on the anxiety of a family as the writer's sister battles breast cancer, to the compelling tale of a woman searching for her furry friend in the aftermath of September 11th, to the blind and deaf dog who teaches everyone about keeping on truckin' no matter what predicaments she gets into, the essays in this anthology get at the heart of love—and yes, sometimes love-hate**

relationships—women have with the dogs in their lives.

## Landscapes of the New West

# Gender and Geography in Contemporary Women's Writing

**UNC Press Books** In the early 1970s, empowered by the civil rights and women's movements, a new group of women writers began speaking to the American public. Their topic, broadly defined, was the postmodern American West. By the mid-1980s, their combined works made for a bona fide literary groundswell in both critical and commercial terms. However, as Krista Comer notes, despite the attentions of publishers, the media, and millions of readers, literary scholars have rarely addressed this movement or its writers. Too many critics, Comer argues, still enamored of western images that are both masculine and antimodern, have been slow to reckon with the emergence of a new, far more "feminine," postmodern, multiracial, and urban west. Here, she calls for a redesign of the field of western cultural studies, one that engages issues of gender and race and is more self-conscious about space itself—especially that cherished symbol of western "authenticity," open landscape. Surveying works by Joan Didion, Wanda Coleman, Maxine Hong Kingston, Leslie Marmon Silko, Barbara Kingsolver, Pam Houston, Louise Erdrich, Sandra Cisneros, and Mary Clearman Blew, Comer shows how these and other contemporary women writers have mapped new geographical imaginations upon the cultural and social spaces of today's American West.

## The Writing Path 2

# Poetry and Prose from Writers' Conferences

**University of Iowa Press** Some senior writers were themselves discovered at writers' conferences, festivals, and workshops - Rick Bass, Pam Houston, Lisa Shea, Amy Tan, and other now-familiar writers. Some of the new voices in

this anthology have been widely published in such prestigious magazines as the New Yorker, Poetry, Paris Review, Southern Review, and Story. With selections from both teachers and students, The Writing Path 2 brings together another group of seasoned and fresh writers for readers to savor.

## The Story of Your Life

## Becoming the Author of Your Experience

Simon and Schuster Describes how to weave life's three major plotlines--love, mastery, and loss--into the most interesting and fulfilling experience possible

## Men Before Ten A.M.

Beyond Words Publishing Company A renowned female photographer and a bestselling writer capture their favorite subject--man--as he seldom reveals himself to strangers. Here is a celebration of men by two women who love them intensely--for all the ways they are not like women, instead of the ways they are. Photos include Keanu Reeves, Jack Nicholson, John Singleton, Lou Diamond Phillips, Arthur Miller, Tom Hayden, and Bill Blass. 100 photos.

## Comeback Wolves

## Western Writers Welcome the Wolf Home

Big Earth Publishing Delves into the spirit of the wolf dilemma through a collection of essays and poems from some of the Rocky Mountain region's most prolific writers. Authors such as Susan J. Tweit, Craig Childs, Pam Houston, John Nichols, Kent Nelson, Rick Bass, Stephen Trimble, and Laura Pritchett have contributed works specifically written for this compilation, which creates a forum for writers to voice their opinions, hopes, and concerns for the reintroduction of wolves in Colorado. Forward by Mark Udall, U.S. Representative, Colorado's 2nd Congressional District.

## Contemporary Authors

A Bio-bibliographical Guide to Current Writers in Fiction, General Nonfiction, Poetry, Journalism, Drama, Motion Pictures, Television and Other Fields

## The Golden Shovel Anthology

## New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks

University of Arkansas Press “The cross-section of poets with varying poetics and styles gathered here is only one of the many admirable achievements of this volume.” —Claudia Rankine in the *New York Times* The *Golden Shovel Anthology* celebrates the life and work of poet and civil rights icon Gwendolyn Brooks through a dynamic new poetic form, the *Golden Shovel*, created by National Book Award-winner Terrance Hayes. An array of writers—including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the T. S. Eliot Prize, and the National Book Award, as well as a couple of National Poets Laureate—have written poems for this exciting new anthology: Rita Dove, Billy Collins, Danez Smith, Nikki Giovanni, Sharon Olds, Tracy K. Smith, Mark Doty, Sharon Draper, Richard Powers, and Julia Glass are just a few of the contributing poets. This second edition includes *Golden Shovel* poems by two winners and six runners-up from an international student poetry competition judged by Nora Brooks Blakely, Gwendolyn Brooks’s daughter. The poems by these eight talented high school students add to Ms. Brooks’s legacy and contribute to the depth and breadth of this anthology.

## Airmail

Torrey House Press Letters penned during pandemic by writers Pam Houston and Amy Irvine as they shelter in place in Colorado's high country, one on either side of the Continental Divide.

## Waltzing the Cat

Simon and Schuster Narrates eleven stories about Lucy O'Rourke, a peripatetic photographer from Houston who weathers disasters both natural and romantic

## New Westers

## The West in Contemporary American Culture

These "New Westers," Johnson reveals, line-dance and two-step, listen to Garth Brooks and George Strait, drink beer from long-neck bottles, wear clothes ordered from Sheplers, watch rodeo on ESPN, play Wild West arcade games, eat fajitas and tacos in stuccoed Mexican cafes, collect Western art and Native American crafts, and vacation in and move to the West. "New Westers" rewrite the history and biography of the West. They reimagine the West in Cowboy sagas and poetry, Native American novels, Mexican-American drama, nature writing, revisionist films, eclectic visual artwork, and neo-traditional music. They flock to movies like *Thelma and Louise*, *Unforgiven*, and *Dances with Wolves*, watch mini-series like *Lonesome Dove*, and read bestsellers like *The Crossing* and *All The Pretty Horses*. "New Westers" are men and women who may or may not have ever hitched up a horse but who crave connection with the West. At the end of a century of urbanization, technological change, and cultural confusion, they seek a more natural home, a fuller and wider sense of place, and a deeper and more colorful personal identity. They also want to revive the dream of the mythic West - but on different terms. They overrun the Old West and yet strive to preserve it, raising troubling new concerns about the differences between the mythic and the real, between traditional and contemporary cultural influences.

## The Book Of Yaak

**HarperCollins** The Yaak Valley of northwestern Montana is one of the last great wild places in the United States, a land of black bears and grizzlies, wolves and coyotes, bald and golden eagles, wolverine, lynx, marten, fisher, elk, and even a handful of humans. It is a land of magic, but its magic may not be enough to save it from the forces threatening it now. The Yaak does have one trick up its sleeve, though: a writer to give it voice. In *Winter* Rick Bass portrayed the wonder of living in the valley. In *The Book of Yaak* he captures the soul of the valley itself, and he shows how, if places like the Yaak are lost, we too are lost. Rick Bass has never been a writer to hold back, but *The Book of Yaak* is his most passionate book yet, a dramatic narrative of a man fighting to defend the place he loves.

## Faith

### Essays from Believers, Agnostics, and Atheists

**Simon and Schuster** Whether believer, skeptic, agnostic, atheist, or something other, these twenty-four authors share a fascinating, daring, and multifaceted perspective on what faith means (or doesn't mean). The collection of personal essays includes bestselling authors such as Anne Perry, who writes about a deeply spiritual faith that embraces and sustains her through every step of her life. Caroline Leavitt writes about tarot cards, mediums, and quantum physics to explain her concept of faith. Afghan-American author Tamim Ansary beautifully captures his childhood curiosity amidst his Islamic views. There is the irrepressible Malachy McCourt's anti-religion rant, and then Pam Houston's signature wit and sense of irony, which gives the question of faith a surprising twist.

## Work and the Life of the Spirit

**Cultural Writing. Spirituality.** In *WORK AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*, Douglas Thorpe has assembled the finest array of writing on work. From ancient to modern times, from Eastern to Western philosophies, writers and thinkers have ceaselessly considered work's relationship to the personal and spiritual dimensions of our daily lives. The overall effect of the book is to renew a sense of meaning for life, to give our acts dignity in an age in which so much worthy work is

despised or ignored (Barry Lopez). This anthology includes short pieces relating to the maning of work by many wirters including Walt Whitman, Linda Hogan, William Carlos Willaims, Denise Levertov, Lao-tzu and Gary Snyder. Editor, Douglas Thorpe is the author of the cirtical study A NEW EARTH. He teaches at Seattle Pacific University and is porgram director of the Center for Spiritual Development.

## Circle of Women

### An Anthology of Contemporary Western Women Writers

University of Oklahoma Press This striking array of stories, essays, and poems reflects women's experiences in the American West. Though the tales they tell reflect a variety of viewpoints, these writers share the struggle against the overwhelming isolation brought on by gender and the physical environment. Contributors include:Christina Adam, Gretel Ehrlich, Anita Endrezze, Tess Gallagher, Molly Gloss, Pam Houston, Teresa Jordan, Cyra McFadden, Deirdre McNamer, Melanie Rae Thon, Marilynne Robinson, Annick Smith, Terry Tempest Williams, and Claire Davis

## Home Front Heroes

### The Rise of a New Hollywood Archetype, 1988-1999

McFarland This book traces the effects of the feminist and civil rights movements in the construction of Hollywood action heroes. Starting in the late 1980s, action blockbusters regularly have featured masculine figures who choose love and community over the path of the stoic loner committed solely to duty. The American heroic quest of the past 25 years increasingly has involved a reclamation of home, creating a place for the Hero at the hearth, part of a more intimate community with less restrictive gender and racial boundaries. The author presents pieces of contemporary popular culture that create the complex mosaic of the present-day American heroic ideal. Hollywood popular films are examined that best represent the often painful shift from traditional heroic masculinity to a masculinity that is less "exceptional" and more vulnerable. There are also chapters on how issues of race and gender intersect with the new masculinity, and on subgenres of 1990s films that also developed this postfeminist masculinity.

## Updating the Literary West

TCU Press Given in honor of District Governor Hugh Summers and Mrs. Ahnise Summers by the Rotary Club of Aggieland with matching support from the Sara and John H. Lindsey '44 Fund, Texas A & M University Press, 2004.

## Writers on Writing

## The Art of the Short Story

Greenwood Publishing Group Short story writers reflect on the craft, on their own works, and on challenges and trends in short story writing.

## Refiguring the Map of Sorrow

## Nature Writing and Autobiography

University of Virginia Press Recent decades have witnessed an explosion of interest in both autobiography and environmental literature. In *Refiguring the Map of Sorrow*, Mark Allister brings these two genres together by examining a distinct form of grief narrative, in which the writers deal with mourning by standing explicitly both outside and inside the text: outside in writing about the natural world; inside in making that exposition part of the grieving process. Building on Peter Fritzell's thesis in *Nature Writing and America* that the best American nature writing blends Aristotelian natural history and Augustinian confession, this work of literary interpretation draws on psychoanalytical narrative theory, studies of grieving, autobiography theory, and ecocriticism for its insights into how nature writing can become an autobiographical, healing act. Allister examines works by Terry Tempest Williams, Sue Hubbell, Peter Matthiessen, Bill Barich, William Least Heat-Moon, and Gretel Ehrlich in order to demonstrate the difficulty of hearing nature speak, and of translating terrain and self into language and form. As he focuses on the many ways in which humans connect—often deeply and urgently—to animals or the land, Allister vastly extends our understanding of

"relational" autobiography.

## Bone Deep in Landscape

### Writing, Reading, and Place

University of Oklahoma Press Blew's reflections on a woman's life in the Rocky Mountain West immerse readers in the landscape of mountains and prairies and of blizzards and scorching sun. "Blew again demonstrates her artistry and strong connection to the Western terrain of her past and present homes in Montana and Idaho".--" Publishers Weekly". 9 illustrations.

## Contemporary American Fiction

Oxford University Press Millard leads the interpretation of post-1970 fiction by addressing particular authors and themes.