

Celebrating Women Writers from Around the World

# Belletrista

[Home](#)

[Reviews](#)

[New & Notable](#)

[Features](#)

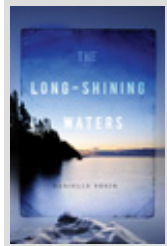
[About Us](#)

[Contact](#)

[Donate](#)

## Reviews

Select a review



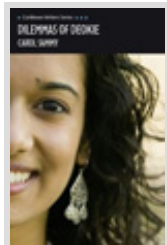
### THE LONG-SHINING WATERS

*Danielle Sosin*

Lake Superior in North America, which extends into both Canada and the United States, is arguably the largest freshwater lake in the world. For generations it has fascinated, frightened and served those who have visited its waters, among them Indians, explorers, trappers, hunters, missionaries ...

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by **Kathleen Ambrogio**



### DILEMMAS OF DEOKIE

*Carol Sammy*

Deokie Ramoutar is different from the other girls in her Trinidadian village. Nineteen years old, she is more sober and thoughtful than her giddy, frivolous friends and not really interested in boys. Instead, Deokie ...

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by **Charlotte Simpson**



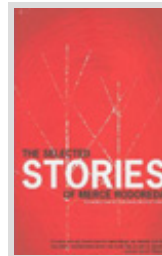
### FIVE BELLS

*Gail Jones*

Circular Quay is the bus and train terminus for Sydney Harbour. The Quay is also where the ferries dock and is a busy place with its people, shops and buskers. From the Quay one can walk the concourse...

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by **Amanda Meale**



### THE SELECTED STORIES OF MERCÈ RODOREDÀ

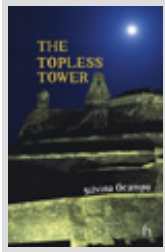
*Mercè Rodoreda*

*Translated from the Catalan by Martha Tennent*

When General Franco took power in Spain, he repressed all regional languages including Catalan, prompting the twenty-six year old Mercè Rodoreda to go into exile, where she did not write for twenty years. Now a legendary Catalan writer...

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by **Andrew Stancek**



## THE TOPLESS TOWER

*Silvina Ocampo*

*Translated from the Spanish by James Womack*

Little Leandro, nine, having displeased a gentleman visitor who may be the Devil, finds himself a prisoner in the tower which gives this story its title. He discovers a room set up with all the requisites a painter could need. He begins to paint.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Tim Jones**



## THE HOTTEST DISHES OF THE TARTAR CUISINE

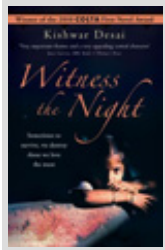
*Alina Bronsky*

*Translated from the German by Tim Mohr*

Rosalinda Achmetowna is a woman who delights you on the written page but would horrify you should she appear on your doorstep, suitcase in hand. She rules her home and acquaintances with an iron hand, positive of both the fact that they are utterly useless and the corollary that she knows exactly what is needed to whip every one into shape.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Tad Deffler**



## WITNESS THE NIGHT

*Kishwar Desai*

It is September 2007, and police in the Punjab region of India ask social worker Simran Singh for her help in talking to an uncommunicative fourteen-year-old girl. The girl, Durga, was found loosely tied up and...

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Joyce Nickel**



## LIKE BEES TO HONEY

*Caroline Smailes*

In her latest novel *Like Bees to Honey* Smailes weaves a beautiful story of redemption and renews our way of seeing the world as she does so. The story line follows Nina, a burdened and troubled woman, as she travels from her adopted home in Liverpool to her native hometown in Malta.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Flavia Baralle**



## THE BOOK OF HAPPENSTANCE

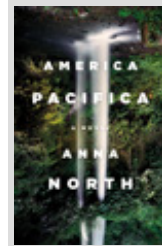
*Ingrid Winterbach*

*Translated from the Afrikaans by Dirk and Ingrid Winterbach*

When reading this novel, the words meditate, ruminate, and reflect all come to mind—a contemplation of the meaning of our lives, on loss and how we can deal with it in an increasingly secularized and fragmented world where the traditional comforts of family, religion and the "old ways" are disappearing.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Tad Deffler**



## AMERICA PACIFICA

*Anna North*

Anna North's young adult novel, *America Pacifica*, is a grungy, thrill-a-minute frappe of familiar dystopian elements—scuzzy landscape, crazy tyrants, social and environmental exploitation—garnished with ...

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Jean Raber**

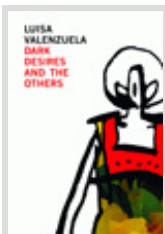


**DOC: A NOVEL**  
*Mary Doria Russell*

Doc Holliday is known primarily as Hollywood and dime store novels have portrayed him: as a cold-blooded gunslinger, calculating at cards, and most often with a whiskey in one hand and a revolver in the other.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Lisa Sanders**



**DARK DESIRES AND THE OTHERS**  
*Luisa Valenzuela*

*Translated by Susan E. Clark*

*Dark Desires and the Others* is both an erotic memoir and a meditation on writing. Taken from Valenzuela's diaries written in New York between 1979 and 1982, it is a series of essays ...

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Andy Barnes**



**THE FOLDED EARTH**  
*Anuradha Roy*

This rich evocative novel takes you into the tranquil hills of Ranikhet, a little town set deep in the Himalayan Mountains, with Maya and a host of colorful hill people who become her family when she seeks refuge there in an attempt to get over the loss of her husband.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Akeela Gaibie-Dawood**



**BIG GIRL SMALL**  
*Rachel DeWoskin*

Judy Lohden is smart and talented; she has a scathing sense of humour and is just a little bit conceited. She is 16 years old, starting a new year in a new school, trying to find her place in the often vicious, often changing world that is high school.

[READ MORE](#)

**Reviewed by Judy Lim**