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# How To Breathe Underwater Julie Orringer

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## Breathing Underwater

Vintage

From Ann Packer, author of the New York Times best-selling novels *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* and *Songs Without Words*, a collection of burnished, emotionally searing stories, framed by two unforgettable linked narratives that express the transformation of a single

family over the course of a lifetime. A wife struggles to make sense of her husband's sudden disappearance. A mother mourns her teenage son through the music collection he left behind. A woman shepherds her estranged parents through her brother's wedding and reflects on the year her family collapsed. A young man comes to grips with the joy—and vulnerability—of fatherhood. And, in the masterly opening novella, two teenagers from very different families forge a sustaining friendship, only to discover the disruptive and unsettling power of sex. Ann Packer is one of our most talented archivists of family life, with its hidden crevasses and unforeseeable perils, and in these stories she explores the moral predicaments that define our social and emotional lives, the frailty of ordinary grace, and the ways in which we are shattered and remade by loss. With *Swim Back to Me*, she delivers shimmering psychological precision, unflinching intelligence, and page-turning drama: her most enticing work yet. *If I'd Known You Were Coming* University of Iowa Press

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As Russian tanks roll through the cobblestone streets of Budapest and shots ring out, young Robert and Attila Beck, inseparable brothers, peer from the boot of a toppled statue of Stalin at the first grisly signs of revolution. The year is 1956. That October day, Russian soldiers will storm their family home, prompting the boys' hurried escape from the city with their parents, grandmother, and two cousins. Not all will survive. Their immediate destination is Paris, and the town house of Hermina, their great-aunt, once a renowned opera singer, now a recluse who wears long gloves to preserve her dignity against a past scarred by an unspeakable violence. Along the way, these two brothers encounter mysterious fellow travelers, witness the bewildering sights of a nation in transition, and grapple with rivalry and loss, while never losing their capacity for joy or their appreciation of humor, and each other, as they stare down the unaccountable and the absurd. Robert, the younger, idolizes the fiery Attila, whose growing edge of anger and rebellion threatens to endanger them both. As exiles in Paris, they seek adventure and whatever semblance of home they might find, from the unfamiliar streets to the labyrinthine sewers beneath. When the duo uncovers a long-held family secret involving a

double agent and a daring Holocaust rescue, this novel hurtles toward its cataclysmic conclusion. A fleeting decision by Attila has consequences that will last a lifetime, and the bond that has proved unbreakable may be the brothers' undoing. With dazzling storytelling and a firm belief in the power of humor in the face of turmoil, Joseph Kertes has crafted a fierce saga of identity and love that resonates through its final page. *The Afterlife of Stars* is not only a stirring account of one displaced family's possibilities for salvation, but also an extraordinary tale of the singular and enduring ties of brotherhood. "Devastating yet unnervingly funny.... inspired and deeply affecting.... a story for the ages."-Julie Orringer, *New York Times Book Review*

"*The Afterlife of Stars* moved me more than any other novel I've read in recent memory."-Tim O'Brien

*The Afterlife of Stars* Swoon Reads

Do you know why whales sing? Or why pufferfish puff up? Or how coral changes color? You will after you read this book! From the creators of the popular podcast *But Why* comes a new illustrated nonfiction series for kids answering all their most curious questions! Featuring tons of sidebars, illustrations, and real questions from real kids, this book will keep young readers engaged as they dive into the pages and the deep blue sea!

*Hiding Lies Everyman's*

## Library

In the broad, dry, big-sky land of Arizona, a series of short stories unfold—each one revolving around ordinary characters who confront failing relationships, mortality, and the ever-present reality of the desert. Winner of the 2003 John Simmons Short Fiction Award. A first collection. Original. (Story Collection)

*The Art Of Not Breathing*  
Penguin  
MARSEILLE, 1940.

Varian Fry, a Harvard-educated journalist and editor, arrives in France. Recognizing the darkness descending over Europe, he and a group of like-minded New Yorkers formed the Emergency Rescue Committee, helping artists and writers escape from the Nazis and immigrate to the United States. Now, amid the chaos of World War II, and in defiance of restrictive U.S. immigration policies, Fry must procure false passports, secure visas, seek out escape routes through the Pyrenees and by sea, and make impossible decisions about who should be saved, all while under profound pressure—and in a state of irrevocable

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personal change. In this dazzling work of historical fiction—one that illuminates previously unexplored elements of Fry's story, and has, since its publication, brought us new insight into his life—Julie Orringer, award-winning author of *The Invisible Bridge*, has crafted a gripping tale of forbidden love, high-stakes adventure, and unimaginable courage. *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* Vintage Morgan didn't mean to do anything wrong that day. Actually, she meant to do something right. But her kind act inadvertently played a role in a deadly tragedy. In order to move on, Morgan must learn to forgive—first someone who did something that might be unforgivable, and then, herself. But Morgan can't move on. She can't even move beyond the front door of the apartment she shares with her mother and little brother. Morgan feels like she's underwater, unable to surface. Unable to see her friends. Unable to go to school. When it seems Morgan can't hold her breath any longer, a new boy moves in next door. Evan reminds her of the salty ocean air and the rush she used to get from

swimming. He might be just what she needs to help her reconnect with the world outside. Underwater is a powerful, hopeful debut novel about redemption, recovery, and finding the strength it takes to face your past and move on.

**Underwater** Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) At Holden Prep, dirty little secrets always have a way of coming to the surface. Eleanor Ames has never been what she seems. Average high school student on the outside, but reformed con artist trying to break free of her past on the inside. When Eleanor receives startling news about someone from her previous criminal life, plans for a new operation coinciding with her school's upcoming field trip quickly consume her. But operations rarely go according to plan. And this is one her irresistible teen FBI agent boyfriend, Miles, would never approve of. Now, more than just Ellie's reputation is at stake. If she fails, it could be her life. The Eleanor Ames series is best enjoyed in order. Reading Order: Book #1 Chasing Truth Book #2 Hiding Lies

*Last Breath* Penguin National Bestseller "Beautifully written and delightfully strange...as earthy as it is sublime...in the truest sense, an eye-opener." --Daily News From Annie Dillard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* and one of the most compelling writers of our time, comes *For the Time Being*, her most profound narrative to date. With her keen eye, penchant for paradox, and yearning for truth, Dillard renews our ability to discover wonder in life's smallest--and often darkest--corners. Why do we exist? Where did we come from? How can one person matter? Dillard searches for answers in a powerful array of images: pictures of bird-headed dwarfs in the standard reference of human birth defects; ten thousand terra-cotta figures fashioned for a Chinese emperor in place of the human court that might have followed him into death; the paleontologist and theologian Teilhard de Chardin crossing the Gobi Desert; the dizzying variety of clouds. Vivid, eloquent, haunting, *For*

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the Time Being evokes no less than the terrifying grandeur of all that remains tantalizingly and troublingly beyond our understanding.

"Stimulating, humbling, original--. [Dillard] illuminate[s] the human perspective of the world, past, present and future, and the individual's relatively inconsequential but ever so unique place in it."--Rocky Mountain News

*Baby Einstein: Nature*

*Discovery Cards* Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

Winner of the prestigious Prix Femina, *The Boy* is an expansive and entrancing historical novel that follows a nearly feral child from the French countryside as he joins society and plunges into the torrid events of the first half of the 20th century. The boy does not speak. The boy has no name. The boy, raised half-wild in the forests of southern France, sets out alone into the wilderness and the greater world beyond. Without experience of another person aside from his mother, the boy must learn what it is to be human, to exist among people, and to live beyond simple survival. As this wild and naive child attempts to join civilization, he encounters earthquakes and car crashes, ogres and artists, and, eventually, all-encompassing love and an inescapable war.

His adventures take him around the world and through history on a mesmerizing journey, rich with unforgettable characters. A hamlet of farmers fears he's a werewolf, but eventually raise him as one of their own. A circus performer who toured the world as a sideshow introduces the boy to showmanship and sanitation. And a chance encounter with an older woman exposes him to music and the sensuous pleasures of life. The boy becomes a guide whose innocence exposes society's wonder, brutality, absurdity, and magic. Beginning in 1908 and spanning three decades, *The Boy* is as an emotionally and historically rich exploration of family, passion, and war from one of France's most acclaimed and bestselling authors.

*Jump and Other Stories* New York Review of Books

How do fish breathe underwater? Do all birds fly? Why do some animals have fur? Children will learn the answers to these and other questions as they explore, with Pooh, the worlds of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, sea creatures, and insects and spiders! The 30 beautifully illustrated *Discovery Cards* in this set provide a unique educational experience, featuring stunning real-life images and fascinating facts for curious young minds.

*The Flight Portfolio* Anchor Dive into this visually stunning, middle-grade graphic novel about a spunky Vietnamese

American surfer girl and her cantankerous talking cat who plunge into a fantasy world of oceanic marvels . . . and mayhem! Trot, a Vietnamese American surfer girl, and Cap'n Bill, her cranky one-eyed cat, catch too big a wave and wipe out, sucked down into a magical underwater kingdom where an ancient deep-sea battle rages. The beautiful Sea Siren mermaids are under attack from the Serpent King and his slithery minions--and Trot and her feline become dangerously entangled in this war of tails and fins. This beautiful graphic novel was inspired by *The Sea Fairies*, L. Frank Baum's "underwater Wizard of Oz." It weaves Vietnamese mythology, fantastical ocean creatures, a deep-sea setting, quirky but sympathetic main characters, and fast-paced adventure into an imaginative, world-building story.

**The Boy** Vintage

Kate's father has been pressuring her to be perfect for her whole life, pushing her to be the best swimmer she can be. But when Kate finds her dad cheating on her mom, Kate's perfect world comes crashing down, and Kate is forced to leave home and the swim team she's been a part of her whole life. Now in a new

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home and new school, faced with the prospect of starting over, Kate isn't so sure that swimming is what she wants anymore. But when she decides to quit, her whole world seems to fall apart. But when Kate gets to know Michael, the cute boy that lives across the hall, she starts to think that starting over might not be so bad. There's only one problem: Michael has a girlfriend. As the pressures of love, family, and success press down on her, can Kate keep her head above water? Praise for *How to Breathe Underwater*:

"Well-developed characters, interesting storyline, clean writing, I'm hooked."

—Christy Hintz, reader on SwoonReads.com "A very lovely story and an enjoyable read." —Katie Kaleski, reader on SwoonReads.com

"The strength of this book are the highly developed characters who have such depth..."

—Kathryn Berla, reader on SwoonReads.com

**Fractures** Disney Press  
A remarkable Pocket Poets anthology of poems from around the world and across the centuries about illness and healing, both physical and spiritual. From ancient Greece and Rome up to the present moment, poets have responded with sensitivity and insight to the troubles of the human body

and mind. Poems of Healing gathers a treasury of such poems, tracing the many possible journeys of physical and spiritual illness, injury, and recovery, from John Donne's "Hymne to God My God, In My Sicknesse" and Emily Dickinson's "The Soul has Bandaged moments" to Eavan Boland's "Anorexic," from W.H. Auden's "Miss Gee" to Lucille Clifton's "Cancer," and from D.H. Lawrence's "The Ship of Death" to Rafael Campo's "Antidote" and Seamus Heaney's "Miracle." Here are poems from around the world, by Sappho, Milton, Baudelaire, Longfellow, Cavafy, and Omar Khayyam; by Stevens, Lowell, and Plath; by Zbigniew Herbert, Louise Bogan, Yehuda Amichai, Mark Strand, and Natalia Toledo. Messages of hope in the midst of pain—in such moving poems as Adam Zagajewski's "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," George Herbert's "The Flower," Wis?awa Szymborska's "The End and the Beginning," Gwendolyn Brooks' "when you have forgotten Sunday: the love story" and Stevie Smith's "Away, Melancholy"—make this the perfect gift to accompany anyone on a journey of healing. Everyman's Library pursues the highest production standards,

printing on acid-free cream-colored paper, with full-cloth cases with two-color foil stamping, decorative endpapers, silk ribbon markers, European-style half-round spines, and a full-color illustrated jacket.

[Baby Einstein: Animal Discovery Cards](#) University of Iowa Press

In this collection of sixteen stories, Gordimer brings unforgettable characters from every corner of society to life: a child refugee fleeing civil war in Mozambique; a black activist's deserted wife longing for better times; a rich safari party indulging themselves while lionesses circle their lodge. Jump is a vivid, disturbing and rewarding portrait of life in South Africa under apartheid.

**Journey by Moonlight** Harper Collins

Sudden, extreme deaths have always fascinated us-- and now more than ever as athletes and travelers rise to the challenges of high-risk sports and journeys on the edge. In this spellbinding book, veteran travel and outdoor sports writer Peter Stark reenacts the dramas of what happens inside our bodies, our minds, and our souls when we push ourselves to the absolute limits of human endurance. Combining the adrenaline high of extreme sports with the startling facts of physiological reality, Stark

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narrates a series of outdoor adventure stories in which thrill can cross the line to mortal peril. Each death or brush with death is at once a suspense story, a cautionary tale, and a medical thriller. Stark describes in unforgettable detail exactly what goes through the mind of a cross-country skier as his body temperature plummets-- apathy at ninety-one degrees, stupor at ninety. He puts us inside the body of a doomed kayaker tumbling helplessly underwater for two minutes, five minutes, ten minutes. He conjures up the physiology of a snowboarder frantically trying not to panic as he consumes the tiny pocket of air trapped around his face under thousands of pounds of snow. These are among the dire situations that Stark transforms into harrowing accounts of how our bodies react to trauma, how reflexes and instinct compel us to fight back, and how, why, and when we let go of our will to live. In an increasingly tamed and homogenized world, risk is not only a means of escape but a path to spirituality. As Peter Stark writes, "You must try to understand death intimately and prepare yourself for death in order to live a full and satisfying life." In this fascinating, informative book, Stark reveals exactly what we're getting ourselves into when we choose to live-- and die-- at the extremes of endurance.

**Bring Me Your Saddest**  
**Arizona** Vintage  
With his land sitting atop

Marcellus Shale, the Joyner family's patriarch must decide whether to lease his land to the natural gas companies, which causes family tragedies to resurface as he weighs his heirs' competing motivations.

### **The Book of Why**

Harlequin

A New York Times notable book and winner of The Northern California Book Award for Best Short Fiction, these nine brave, wise, and spellbinding stories make up this debut. In "When She is Old and I Am Famous" a young woman confronts the inscrutable power of her cousin's beauty. In "Note to Sixth-Grade Self" a band of popular girls exert their social power over an awkward outcast. In "Isabel Fish" fourteen-year-old Maddy learns to scuba dive in order to mend her family after a terrible accident. Alive with the victories, humiliations, and tragedies of youth, *How to Breathe Underwater* illuminates this powerful territory with striking grace and intelligence. "These stories are without exception clear-eyed, compassionate and deeply moving.... Even her most bitter characters have a gift, the sharp wit of envy. This, Orringer's first book, is breathtakingly good, truly felt and beautifully

delivered."—The Guardian  
**Deep Water** Simon and Schuster

"This is a haunting and extraordinary book." -- Julie Orringer, author of *The Invisible Bridge* Self-help writer Eric Newborn's motivational books have spawned a legion of devoted followers who swear that his ideas have pulled their lives from the brink. But after Eric can't save his own wife from dying, he finds himself at a loss -- the power of positive thinking is simply not enough to overcome his grief. Retreating to the home he and his wife shared on Martha's Vineyard, Eric, with his dog as his closest companion, attempts to distance himself from the teachings he has come to hate. But when a woman named Sam shows up at his door one night five years later, Eric must finally confront his heartache and reconcile his worldview with the pain he has suffered. At once a powerful love story, a stirring portrait of a soul laid bare by grief, and a celebration of coincidence, connection, and the belief that true love never dies, *The Book of Why* explores the deep powers of the heart and mind to shape the world around us, blurring the lines between loss and love, fate and free will, despair and joy.

[Sea Sirens](#) McFarland  
Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, a Hungarian-Jewish architecture student, arrives from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious

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letter he promised to deliver. But when he falls into a complicated relationship with the letter's recipient, he becomes privy to a secret that will alter the course of his—and his family's—history. From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the despair of Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in labor camps, *The Invisible Bridge* tells the story of a family shattered and remade in history's darkest hour.

**The Creature Chronicles**

Vintage

After she is in a horrific car crash when drunk, Los Angeles high school student Gabriella Gardiner assumes she stole her rich boyfriend's car and smashed it into a tree, but she cannot remember anything about the events of the evening.