

Flings: Stories

By Justin Taylor

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Flings: Stories By Justin Taylor

The acclaimed author of *Everything Here Is the Best Thing Ever* and *The Gospel of Anarchy* makes his hardcover debut with a piercing collection of short fiction that illuminates our struggle to find love, comfort, and identity.

In a new suite of powerful and incisive stories, Justin Taylor captures the lives of men and women unmoored from their pasts and uncertain of their futures.

A man writes his girlfriend a Dear John letter, gets in his car, and just drives. A widowed insomniac is roused from malaise when an alligator appears in her backyard. A group of college friends try to stay close after graduation, but are drawn away from—and back toward—each other by the choices they make. A boy's friendship with a pair of identical twins undergoes a strange and tragic evolution over the course of adolescence. A promising academic and her fiancée attempt to finish their dissertations, but struggle with writer's block, a nasty secret, and their own expert knowledge of Freud.

From an East Village rooftop to a cabin in Tennessee, from the Florida suburbs to Hong Kong, Taylor covers a vast emotional and geographic landscape while ushering us into an abiding intimacy with his characters, *Flings* is a commanding work of fiction that captures the contemporary search for identity, connection, and a place to call home.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, August 2014: Imagine the subtle domesticity of Raymond Carver's fiction crossed with the thematic ennui of Richard Linklater's film *Slacker* and you have something that resembles Justin Taylor's newest story collection, *Flings*. Readers familiar with Taylor's terrific debut, *Everything Here Is the Best Thing Ever*, will find a similar focus on the uncertain lives of twenty- and thirty-somethings. These characters are not necessarily selfish (though some are); they're lost. But *Flings* is less about finding the way out--whether that's literal or figurative--and more about the intimate discovery that these lives are meandering in unknown directions. While *Flings* confronts ambiguous situations and characters with unclear motives, Taylor himself writes with resolve and confidence. It's his strongest work to date--delicately observed and slyly funny. --*Kevin Nguyen*

Review
“At the root of Taylor’s fiction is one the great ineffable questions, so simple as to come off almost silly when stated plainly—why are the current state of things one way rather than another? Unanswerable, of course, but this collection cements Taylor’s status as a young writer to follow.” (*Daily Beast*)

“Infused with pop-culture and literary references alike, Taylor’s profoundly understated and often funny stories establish him as an unequivocal voice for the Internet age.” (*Booklist*)

“Taylor’s insightful stories illuminate the many ways we fall in love--and out of it--and how romances shape our identity both while they last and long after they conclude.” (*Shelf Awareness*)

“Justin Taylor somehow makes available to us just how strange we are, here in late-capitalist early 21st-century America. Taylor’s stories chart a path through the truth, and the result is that Flings is urgent, necessary, funny, and amazing. A writer we need to read.” (Alexander Chee, author of *Edinburgh)*

“In this luminous collection of short stories, Taylor takes on the theme of constancy of self amid the ephemeral relationships that make up our lives.These stories, by turns witty and piercing, form an uncommon portrait of the human heart.” (Publishers Weekly starred review)

“I tore through this book with white knuckles and a sense of relief, grateful to finally learn more about the human condition from an author willing to give it to me straight. Taylor is a brilliant writer who can tell it like it is without sacrificing style, humor, or surprise.” (Alissa Nutting, author of *Tampa*)

“It’s an insane idea, but Taylor pulls it off. . . . [A] beautiful meeting of Don Delillo, Philip Roth and Aaron Cometbus.” (Charles Bock, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Beautiful Children*)

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Lockhart:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Flings: Stories. Try to stumble through book Flings: Stories as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Carl Kile:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to their book. One of them is this Flings: Stories.

Herbert Mikula:

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Laura Ide:

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