



The UnAmericans: Stories

By Molly Antopol

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*** Longlisted for the National Book Award *** A stunning exploration of characters shaped by the forces of history, the debut work of fiction by a 2013 National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" Honoree.

An absentee father, a former dissident from communist-era Prague, needles his adult daughter for details about her newly commissioned play when he fears it will cast him in an unflattering light. An actor, imprisoned during the Red Scare for playing up his communist leanings to get a part with a leftist film director, is shamed by his act when he reunites with his precocious young son. An Israeli soldier, forced to defend a settlement filled with American religious families, still pines for a chance to discover the United States for himself. A young Israeli journalist, left unemployed after America's most recent economic crash, questions her life path when she begins dating a middle-aged widower still in mourning for his wife. And in the book's final story, a tour de force spanning three continents and three generations of women, a young American and her Israeli husband are forced to reconsider their marriage after the death of her dissident art-collecting grandmother.

Again and again, Molly Antopol's deeply sympathetic characters struggle for footing in an uncertain world, hounded by forces beyond their control. Their voices are intimate and powerful and they resonate with searing beauty. Antopol is a superb young talent, and *The UnAmericans* will long be remembered for its wit, humanity, and heart.

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The UnAmericans: Stories By Molly Antopol Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

In her first story collection, Antopol explores the everyday anxieties and complex past lives of immigrant characters in New York boroughs and Old World homelands, including Kiev, Tel Aviv, and Brooklyn. In “Duck and Cover,” a widowed father struggles to keep secret his involvement with the Communist Party in McCarthy-era Los Angeles, while his daughter discovers her sexuality in a neighbor’s fall-out shelter. In “The Quietest Man,” a former dissident from Czechoslovakia must confront the facts of his estranged daughter’s new play, which he selfishly worries will hurt his reputation. In another story, a grandmother in Queens recounts the questionable ethics of a wartime brigade called the Yiddish Underground, common citizens who fought the Nazi occupation of Jewish communities, such as the sizable “lost shtetl” of Antopol, Belarus. In these stories, Antopol depicts with bold strokes and uncanny intelligence the intimate links between family, history, and politics, never failing to capture the grit and hurt of intergenerational confrontation. Honored as one of the National Book Foundation’s 5 Under 35, Antopol enters American fiction with startling originality and honesty. --Diego Báez

Review

“Fresh and offbeat... memorable and promising.” (Dwight Garner - New York Times)

“A memorable collection of melancholic vignettes about identity, place, and coupling.” (Ann Hulbert - The Atlantic)

“A writer of seismic talent...Not since Robert Stone has a writer so examined the nature of disillusionment and the ways in which newfound hope can crack the cement of failed dreams.” (Adam Johnson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Orphan Master's Son)

“Beautiful, funny, fearless, exquisitely crafted, and truly novelistic in scope...It's clear we're in the hands of a master storyteller?a writer with the emotional heft of Nicole Krauss, the intellectual depth of Saul Bellow, and the penetrating wit of Philip Roth. This book isn't simply powerful and important?it's necessary.” (Jesmyn Ward, National Book Award-winning author of Salvage the Bones)

“Molly Antopol's stories display that wonderful combination of an original voice with settings that are masterfully rendered. A rich collection, a great read.” (Abraham Verghese, author of Cutting for Stone)

“A brave, generous, and effortlessly smart story collection by a young writer with talent to burn.” (Lauren Groff, author of Arcadia)

“This is deeply humane fiction, coursing with the heat of a passionate, sympathetic heart.” (Ken Kalfus, author of A Disorder Peculiar to the Country and Equilateral)

“Allegiances are not always what they seem, in these wonderfully engrossing stories of Old- and New-World Jews cast on the sometimes rough waters of history. Molly Antopol is a vivid chronicler of the good intentions and big misapprehensions of her characters, as we intently watch them try to get it right.” (Joan Silber, author of Fools)

“An exceptional collection of wide-ranging, powerful, and nuanced stories...You come away with an ache in your soul for all her people and what they were up against, how they triumphed, how they failed, and how

they managed, somehow, to endure.” (Peter Orner, author of *Last Car Over the Saramore Bridge* and *Love and Shame and Love*)

“Deeply satisfying stories...morally complex and emotionally instructive.” (Christine Schutt, author of *Florida* and *All Souls*)

“[Antopol] draws the reader to her deeply flawed characters [with] their keen self-awareness, and their consequent ability to act with a semblance of moral, sometimes even selfless, integrity.” (Publishers Weekly)

“Antopol accomplishes in each of these stories what would take most writers an entire novel to achieve: a fully imagined world.” (Dara Horn, author of *A Guide for the Perplexed*)

“*The Unamericans* is poised to be this year's sensation... the layered riches and historical sweep of its stories make them feel grand, like novels writ small.” (Esquire Magazine)

“[A] poised debut.” (Vogue)

“Evoked with uncommon skill and confidence.” (Lauren Waterman - Dujour)

“In a word: Wow!” (New York Journal of Books)

“A smart, empathetic, well-crafted first collection?Antopol is a writer to watch.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Sharply funny and always intelligent, and readers will find [these stories] immediately appealing.” (Library Journal)

“[Antopol] is a wry, occasionally funny writer, with an unerring grasp on human nature...” (Laura Moser - Jewish Daily Forward)

“Antopol writes convincingly and with great empathy.” (Carmela Ciuraru - San Francisco Chronicle)

“[Will] make you nostalgic, not just for earlier times, but for another era in short fiction. A time when writers such as Bernard Malamud, and Issac Bashevis Singer and Grace Paley roamed the earth.” (Meg Wolitzer - NPR)

“Witty and heartbreaking prose.” (Kim Winternheimer - Oregonian)

About the Author

Molly Antopol teaches writing at Stanford University, where she was a recent Wallace Stegner Fellow. A recipient of the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 award, she holds an MFA from Columbia University and lives in San Francisco.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Holt:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem;

you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled The UnAmericans: Stories. Try to the actual book The UnAmericans: Stories as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you experience alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Christina Moss:

The book The UnAmericans: Stories can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So why must we leave a very important thing like a book The UnAmericans: Stories? A number of you have a different opinion about book. But one aim in which book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you could share all of these. Book The UnAmericans: Stories has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can search the enormous world by open up and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Melvin Hayes:

As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This The UnAmericans: Stories is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Matthew Hansen:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book The UnAmericans: Stories it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book offers high quality.

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