

The Chronology of Water: A Memoir


By Lidia Yuknavitch


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This is not your mother's memoir. In *The Chronology of Water*, Lidia Yuknavitch expertly moves the reader through issues of gender, sexuality, violence, and the family from the point of view of a lifelong swimmer turned artist. In writing that explores the nature of memoir itself, her story traces the effect of extreme grief on a young woman's developing sexuality that some define as untraditional because of her attraction to both men and women. Her emergence as a writer evolves at the same time and takes the narrator on a journey of addiction, self-destruction, and ultimately survival that finally comes in the shape of love and motherhood.

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The Chronology of Water: A Memoir By Lidia Yuknavitch Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

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"I love this book and I am thankful that Lidia Yuknavitch has written it for me and for everyone else who has ever had to sometimes kind of work at staying alive. It's about the body, brain, and soul of a woman who has managed to scratch up through the slime and concrete and crap of life in order to resurrect herself. The kind of book Janis Joplin might have written if she had made it through the fire - raw, tough, pure, more full of love than you thought possible and sometimes even hilarious. This is the book Lidia Yuknavitch was put on the planet to write for us." —Rebecca Brown, author of *The Gifts of the Body*

"*The Chronology of Water's* central metaphor works beautifully: we all keep our heads above water, look around, and enjoy our corporeal life despite all the reasons not to; beyond that, the book is immensely impressive to me on a human level: the narrator/speaker/protagonist/author emerges from a seriously hellish childhood and spooky adolescence into a middle age not of bliss, certainly, but of convincing engagement and satisfaction." —David Shields, author of *Reality Hunger: A Manifesto*

"This intensely powerful memoir touches depths yet unheard of in contemporary writing. I read it at one sitting and wondered for days after about love, time, and truth. Can't get me any more excited than this." —Andrei Codrescu, author of *The Poetry Lesson*

"Flooded with light and incandescent beauty, Lidia Yuknavitch's *The Chronology of Water* cuts through the heart of the reader. These fierce life stories gleam, fiery images passing just beneath the surface of the pages. You will feel rage, fear, release, and joy, and you will not be able to stop reading this deeply brave and human voice." —Diana Abu-Jaber, *Origin: A Novel*

"Lidia Yuknavitch's memoir *The Chronology of Water* is a brutal beauty bomb and a true love song. Rich with story, alive with emotion, both merciful and utterly merciless, I am forever altered by every stunning page. This is the book I'm going to press into everyone's hands for years to come. This is the book I've been waiting to read all of my life." —Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*

This isn't a memoir 'about' addiction, abuse, or love: it's a triumphantly unrelenting look at a life buoyed by the power of the written word.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"I'm also convinced that this bold and highly unconventional book – hot, gritty, unrelenting in its push to dismantle the self and then, somehow, put the self back together again – gets not just under a reader's skin but seeps all the way into her bloodstream.

DEBRA GWARTNEY, THE OREGONIAN

Chosen as one of the 100 Great Nonfiction Books must-read works of narrative nonfiction and journalism.

THE ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER

Simply stated: She is important. Read. Her. Now.

MARGARET ELYSIA GARCIA, THE PLUMAS WEEKLY

Yuknavitch can write a really hot sex scene. It's super sexy, and it's never cheesy or over-the-top or too tame. It's perfect...Yuknavitch's memoir is one of the best books I've ever read.

CASEY REVIEWS, THE LESBRARY

I find Yuknavitch's frankness about the emotional and physical experience of being a woman (in sex, in athletic competition, in childbirth) surprising. Not because it offends my sensibilities, but because it affirms them.

DANIELLE DEULEN, ESSAY DAILY

The Chronology of Water... has lately achieved cult status. Lidia Yuknavitch...imparts a visceral power to the experience of lust, a power unmatched in any recent account I can think of.

CLAIRE DEDERER, THE ATLANTIC

Lidia Yuknavitch is my favorite new writer...It's so genius I'm not quite sure how she did it. The tone is a combination of high and low, with some of the writing literary and metaphorical, some conversational and shock-jockey, all of it fueled by rage and pain and love and art and transformation.

VALERIE STIVERS-ISAKOVA, HUFFINGTON POST

This isn't for everyone. Some will read and be exasperated or disgusted or disbelieving. I get that. I get that chaos and promiscuity and addiction are ugly, messy, and life is too short to waste reading about someone else's tragedy and self-destructive behavior. But something about this story—the goddamn gorgeous language, the raw power of its brutality—gave me so much comfort and solace. In Yuknavitch's word embrace, I felt the magic of self-acceptance and self-love, and the crazy-wonderful beauty of life.

JULIE CHRISTINE JOHNSON, CHALK THE SUN

Yuknavitch has emerged as a trailblazing literary voice that spans genres and dives deep into themes of gender, sexuality, art, violence, and transcendence. Her work is a refreshing alternative to the hero's journey, offering instead what she calls the "misfit's journey."

SULEIKA JAOUARD, LENNY

[*The Chronology of Water*] is about rage, ecstasy, abuse, appetite, bad decisions and grace. It is one of the most full-throated depictions of being a woman I have ever read.

SARAH HEPOLA

Author of *Blackout: Remembering the Things I Drank to Forget*

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Holmes:

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William Stewart:

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Violet Murray:

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