

This Is How You Lose Her

By Junot Díaz



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Finalist for the 2012 National Book Award

A *Time* and *People* Top 10 Book of 2012

Finalist for the 2012 Story Prize

Chosen as a notable or best book of the year by *The New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The LA Times*, *Newsday*, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, the iTunes bookstore, and many more...

"Electrifying." –*The New York Times Book Review*

“Exhibits the potent blend of literary eloquence and street cred that earned him a Pulitzer Prize... Díaz’s prose is vulgar, brave, and poetic.” –*O Magazine*

From the award-winning author, a stunning collection that celebrates the haunting, impossible power of love.

On a beach in the Dominican Republic, a doomed relationship flounders. In a New Jersey laundry room, a woman does her lover’s washing and thinks about his wife. In Boston, a man buys his love child, his only son, a first baseball bat and glove. At the heart of these stories is the irrepressible, irresistible Yuniors, a young hardhead whose longing for love is equaled only by his recklessness--and by the extraordinary women he loves and loses.

In prose that is endlessly energetic, inventive, tender, and funny, these stories lay bare the infinite longing and inevitable weakness of the human heart. They remind us that passion always triumphs over experience, and that “the half-life of love is forever.”

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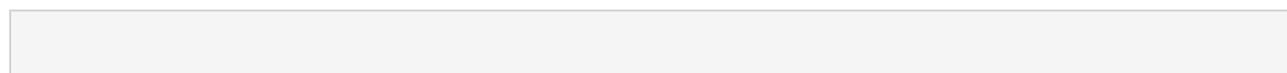
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- 240 pages



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, September 2012: *This Is How You Lose Her* features nine stories by Junot Díaz, who won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* in 2008. At the center of each story is Yunió (making his third appearance in Díaz's work), a Dominican American stud who, despite his macho exterior, aches to be loved. At first blush, this slim volume lacks the ambition and scope of *Oscar Wao*, a condensed pop-culture epic. But Díaz has done an extraordinary thing here: He has taken Yunió's heart and battered it every which way to show how love--romantic, physical, or familial--can affect even the most masculine character. The final story, "The Cheater's Guide to Love," features the collection's stickiest line: "The half-life of love is forever." Díaz compares heartbreak to radiation, its strength decaying exponentially over time. You can bury it underground and try to forget about it, but it never goes away entirely. --Kevin Nguyen

Review

"Junot Díaz writes in an idiom so electrifying and distinct it's practically an act of aggression, at once enthralling, even erotic in its assertion of sudden intimacy... [It is] a syncopated swagger-step between opacity and transparency, exclusion and inclusion, defiance and desire... **His prose style is so irresistible, so sheerly entertaining**, it risks blinding readers to its larger offerings. Yet he weds form so ideally to content that instead of blinding us, it becomes the very lens through which we can see the joy and suffering of the signature Díaz subject: what it means to belong to a diaspora, to live out the possibilities and ambiguities of perpetual insider/outsider status." --*The New York Times Book Review*

"Nobody does scrappy, sassy, twice-the-speed of sound dialogue better than Junot Díaz. His exuberant short story collection, called *This Is How You Lose Her*, charts the lives of Dominican immigrants for whom the promise of America comes down to a minimum-wage paycheck, an occasional walk to a movie in a mall and the momentary escape of a grappling in bed." --Maureen Corrigan, NPR

"Exhibits the potent blend of literary eloquence and street cred that earned him a Pulitzer Prize... Díaz's prose is vulgar, brave, and poetic." --*O Magazine*

"Searing, irresistible new stories... It's a harsh world Díaz conjures but one filled also with beauty and humor and buoyed by the stubborn resilience of the human spirit." --*People*

"Junot Díaz has one of the most distinctive and magnetic voices in contemporary fiction: limber, streetwise, caffeinated and wonderfully eclectic... The strongest tales are those fueled by the verbal energy and magpie language that made *Brief Wondrous Life* so memorable and that capture Yunió's efforts to commute between two cultures, Dominican and American, while always remaining an outsider." --Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"These stories... are virtuosic, command performances that mine the deceptive, lovelorn hearts of men with the blend of tenderness, comedy and vulgarity of early Philip Roth. It's Díaz's voice that's such a delight, and it is every bit his own, a melting-pot pastiche of Spanglish and street slang, pop culture and Dominican culture, and just devastating descriptive power, sometimes all in the same sentence." --*USA Today*

"Impressive... comic in its mopiness, charming in its madness and irresistible in its heartfelt yearning."

–*The Washington Post*

"The dark ferocity of each of these stories and the types of love it portrays is reason enough to celebrate this book. But the collection is also **a major contribution to the short story form... It is an engrossing, ambitious book for readers who demand of their fiction both emotional precision and linguistic daring.**" –NPR

"The centripetal force of Díaz's sensibility and the slangy bar-stool confidentiality of his voice that he makes this hybridization feel not only natural and irresistible, but inevitable, the voice of the future... [*This is How You Lose Her*] **manages to be achingly sad and joyful at the same time.** Its heart is true, even if Yunior's isn't." –*Salon*

"[A] propulsive new collection... [that] succeeds not only because of the author's gift for exploring the nuances of the male... but because of a writing style that **moves with the rhythm and grace of a well-danced merengue.**" –*Seattle Times*

"In Díaz's **magisterial** voice, the trials and tribulations of sex-obsessed objectifiers become **a revelation.**" –*The Boston Globe*

"**Scooch over, Nathan Zuckerman. New Jersey has bred a new literary bad boy... A.**" –*Entertainment Weekly*

"**Ribald, streetwise, and stunningly moving**—a testament, like most of his work, to the yearning, clumsy ways young men come of age." –*Vogue*

"[An] **excellent** new collection of stories... [Díaz is] an energetic stylist who **expertly moves between high-literary storytelling and fizzy pop, between geek culture and immigrant life, between romance and high drama.**" –IndieBound

"Taken together, [these stories'] braggadocio softens into something much more vulnerable and devastating. The intimacy and immediacy... is **not just seductive but downright conspiratorial... A heartbreaker.**" –*The Daily Beast*

"Díaz manages a seamless blend of high diction and low, of poetry and vulgarity... **Look no further for home truths on sex and heartbreak.**" –*The Economist*

"This collection of stories, like everything else [Díaz has] written, feels vital in the literal sense of the word. Tough, **smart, unflinching, and exposed, *This is How You Lose Her* is the perfect reminder of why Junot Díaz won the Pulitzer Prize... [He] writes better about the rapid heartbeat of urban life than pretty much anyone else.**" –*The Christian Science Monitor*

"Filled with Díaz's signature searing voice, loveable/despicable characters and **so-true-it-hurts goodness.**" –*Flavorwire*

"**Díaz writes with subtle and sharp brilliance...** He dazzles us with his language skills and his story-making talents, bringing us a narrative that is starkly vernacular and sophisticated, stylistically complex and direct... **A spectacular read.**" –*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"[*This is How You Lose Her*] has maturity in content, if not in ethical behavior... Díaz's ability to be both

conversational and formal, eloquent and plainspoken, to say brilliant things Trojan-horsed in slang and self-deprecation, **has a way of making you put your guard completely down and be effected in surprising and powerful ways.**" –*The Rumpus*

"As tales of relationship redemption go, **each of the nine relatable short stories in Junot Díaz's consummate collection *This Is How You Lose Her* triumphs...** Through interrogative second-person narration and colloquial language peppered with Spanish, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author authentically captures Junior's cultural and emotional dualities." –*Metro*

"Searing, sometimes hilarious, and always disarming... Readers will remember why everyone wants to write like Díaz, bring him home, or both. Raw and honest, **these stories pulsate with raspy ghetto hip-hop and the subtler yet more vital echo of the human heart.**" –*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Díaz's standout fiction remains pinpoint, sinuous, gutsy, and imaginative... **Each taut tale of unrequited and betrayed love and family crises is electric with passionate observations and off-the-charts emotional and social intelligence...** Fast-paced, unflinching, complexly funny, street-talking tough, perfectly made, and deeply sensitive, Díaz's gripping stories unveil lives shadowed by prejudice and poverty and bereft of reliable love and trust. These are precarious, unappreciated, precious lives in which intimacy is a lost art, masculinity a parody, and kindness, reason, and hope struggle to survive like seedlings in a war zone." –*Booklist* (starred review)

"Díaz's third book is **as stunning as its predecessors.** These stories are hard and sad, but in Díaz's hands they also crackle." –*Library Journal* (starred review)

"**Magnificent...** an exuberant rendering of the driving rhythms and juicy Spanglish vocabulary of immigrant speech... **sharply observed and morally challenging.**" –*Kirkus*

"A beautifully stirring look at ruined relationships and lost love—and a **more than worthy follow-up to [Díaz's] 2007 Pulitzer winner, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.***" –*Bookpage*

"In *This Is How You Lose Her*, Díaz writes with subtlety and grace, once again demonstrating his remarkable facility for developing fully-realized and authentic characters with an economical rawness... **Díaz skillfully portrays his protagonist so vividly, and with so much apparent honesty, that Yuniór's voice comes across with an immediacy that never once feels inauthentic.**" –*California Literary Review*

"**Díaz continues to dazzle with his dynamite, street-bruised wit.** The bass line of this collection is a thumpingly raw and sexual foray into lives that claw against poverty and racism. It is a wild rhythm that makes more vivid the collection's heart-busted steadiness." –*Dallas Morning News*

About the Author

Junot Díaz was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown*; *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *This Is How You Lose Her*, a *New York Times* bestseller and National Book Award finalist. He is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. A graduate of Rutgers College, Díaz is currently the fiction editor at *Boston Review* and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rebecca Kurtz:

Do you one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This This Is How You Lose Her book is readable by means of you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer involving This Is How You Lose Her content conveys thinking easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different available as it. So , do you still thinking This Is How You Lose Her is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Cari Sexton:

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Bert Ferguson:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled This Is How You Lose Her can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Arthur Faust:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both day to day life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually This Is How You Lose Her.

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