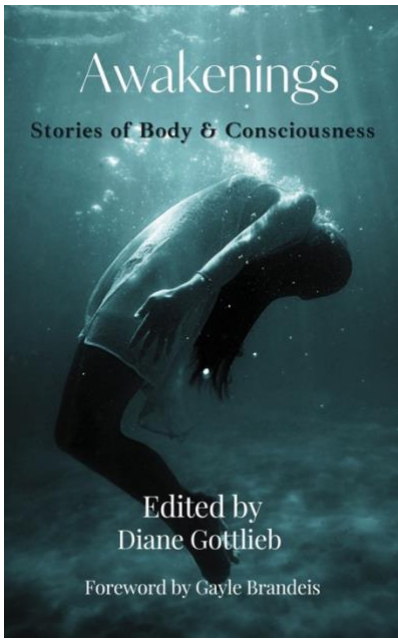


ELJ Editions is proud to announce



Awakenings: Stories of Body & Consciousness—What happens when 49 authors sit down to craft their experiences of living in a body? Magic! Curated by Diane Gottlieb, with a foreword by Gayle Brandeis, *Awakenings: Stories of Bodies & Consciousness* is truly a magical anthology of short essays, filled with trauma and triumph; pleasures and pain; challenges, resilience, and growth. A host of seasoned writers, including Alison McGhee, Jesse Lee Kercheval, and Jacqueline Doyle, alongside emerging artists, such as Camille U. Adams, Terry Opaleck, and Sarita Sidhu, share their hearts, their limbs, their breasts—even their teeth!—on the page in this singularly stunning array of diverse voices, journeys, and literary forms. No matter where you turn in this tribute to the miracles, mishaps, and mysteries of the body, you will be moved. *Awakenings* will sometimes make you laugh, often make you cry, and will always spur a deep appreciation for the flesh and bones that carry us all through life.

“*Awakenings* is a celebration of the body, the whole body. These essays astonish with tales of teeth, arms, hips, gallbladders, lungs, toes and hair. And hearts, too. These are deeply moving stories about how we move through life and make sense of it all. More than anything, this collection celebrates voices. ‘Speaking out is a revolutionary act,’ writes Sarita Sidhu. *Awakenings* is a spectacular revolutionary chorus.” —Ana Maria Spagna, author of *Uplake: Restless Essays of Coming and Going and Pushed: Miners, a Merchant, and (Maybe) a Massacre*

“Ever since we evolved enough to become conscious of our physical selves, the human body has been 206 different bones of contention. And that has never been more true than today, when the challenges of the body, and the battles over the body, define so much of our discourse. In *Awakenings*, forty-nine writers bear brilliant witness to the perils and promise of the human organism. Speaking from a wide range of identities and experiences, they write of the body in childhood, the body bearing children, body differences, body dysmorphia, the body in intimate or social relation to other bodies, the body aging, and all the shocks the flesh is heir to. They testify to the body violated and the body rightfully reclaimed. Journeying through this book, you will feel yourself intrigued and awakened. These writers show us how we can empower our own embodiment.” —David Groff, author of *Live in Suspense*

from Foreword

“...As its title suggests, this breathtaking anthology is full of...awakening...somatic reunion. ‘Body, bring her back to herself,’ invokes Alison McGhee in ‘The Body Knows,’ the opening piece of the collection, and indeed, in essay after essay, we find writers coming back to their bodies, and finding new senses of safety, of gratitude, of forgiveness within their own flesh, sometimes after years of illness or disability or trauma. ‘Return to your body,’ a voice within Amanda Leigh Lichtenstein tells her in ‘Holy Hour.’ ‘It’s OK now to return.’

The voice of the body, and the urgent need to listen to that voice, thrums throughout this collection. ‘I have learned to trust my gut,’ writes DeAnna Beachley in ‘My body :: in parts,’ a process that is not always easy in a world that teaches us to experience our bodies from the outside in, to focus on how we look instead of how we feel—a world that tells us our minds and bodies are separate; a world that actively separates us from our bodies. ‘I couldn’t bully away my pain any more than the bullies around me could,’ writes Barb Mayes Boustead in ‘Pain’s Imposter Syndrome’; ‘now, I choose to let it speak... We’re still learning to trust each other—me, to trust that my pain is telling the truth, and my body, to trust that I will take the information it gives me to seek relief and assistance and comfort.’

The voice of self that issues forth from the body also thrums through these pages. ‘(M)y mouth is power, magic, bitch, and balm,’ writes Melody Greenfield in ‘Lip Service,’ and the voices in this book are all these things—powerful, magical, healing, bitchy (in the most celebratory and empowering use of the word). ‘These days, when my doctors use words that obscure,’ writes Lizz Schumer in ‘Don’t Lie to Me,’ ‘I illuminate them. I’m not afraid to drag us all squinting into the sun.’ The voice that rises from the body, from our embodied truth, the voice that drags us into the sun, can provoke both personal and social change. ‘Speaking out is a revolutionary act,’ Sarita Sidhu reminds us in her essay ‘Shattering the Dark Silence.’ ‘This is the path to liberation. This is how hope blooms.’....”

Purchase *Awakenings* from ELJ Editions, Small Press Distribution & Other Fine Retailers

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