



## Amor and Psycho: Stories

By Carolyn Cooke

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### Amor and Psycho: Stories By Carolyn Cooke

From the author of *Daughters of the Revolution* and *The Bostons* (winner of the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for fiction) come eleven stories about sex and death, violence and desire, love and madness, set in a vast American landscape that ranges from the largest private residence in Manhattan to the lush rain forests and marijuana farms of Northern California.

In “Francis Bacon,” an aspiring writer learns essential lessons from an aging pornographer. In “The Snake,” a restless Jungian analyst sheds one existence after another. In “The Boundary,” a muralist falls in love with a troubled boy from the rez. In the surreal “She Bites,” a man builds an architecturally distinguished doghouse as his wife slowly transforms. And in the transcendent, three-part title story, two best friends face their strange fates, linked by a determination to wrest meaning and coherence from lives spiraling out of control.

At once philosophical and compulsively readable, *Amor and Psycho* dives into our darkest spaces, confronting the absurdity, poetry and brutality of human existence.

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## Amor and Psycho: Stories By Carolyn Cooke Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From [Booklist](#)

PEN/Bingham Award winner and National Endowment of the Arts fellow Cooke (Daughters of the Revolution, 2011) presents an edgy collection of powerful, engaging, offbeat stories filled with characters who are appealing without being likable. The stories span a range of time and geography, some specified, some enticingly vague, some totally suspect. Sexual relations are plentiful, but, more often than not, they are passionless and banal. Marriages are seldom stable, and illness, mental and physical, is a haunting presence. “Francis Bacon” chronicles a seemingly wild but actually quite dull lifestyle. In “The Snake,” Dr. Drema remakes herself with a freedom that defies real life. Breast cancer recurs in several stories, with the character Georgie popping in and out. “Isle of Wigs” depicts the struggle to maintain control as the world rapidly spins away. “Amor and Psycho” is a complex, three-part tour de force. And the final story, “Among the Mezima-Wa,” is so outrageous one imagines Cooke’s glee in writing it. This is the product of a mature and considerable talent and should be enjoyed, but not taken lightly. --Danise Hoover

#### Review

#### Praise for *Amor and Psycho*

“Taut and gorgeous . . . Cooke approaches the subjects of sex and death, desire and illness, and the borderland between sanity and madness, civilization and the wild with a directness that is both disarming and entralling . . . Her willingness to follow her characters to places of mystery, wonder, pain and confusion makes the experience of reading these intense, remarkable stories a deeply empathic one.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Wondrous . . . Within each shadowy narrative, author Carolyn Cooke creates a wholly original voice, perspective, and set of circumstances, making for an altogether rich and remarkable read . . . As all of Cooke’s characters endure the grueling work of letting go, they are occasionally granted redemption, but for the reader, the journey always proves rewarding.”

—*Aritzia*

“Preoccupied by the mutating relationship between surface and depths, what appears to be and what’s hidden . . . Leavened with mordant humor . . . Cooke’s vigorous language is its own reward.”

—*The Boston Globe*

“Cooke’s trademark incisiveness is right there on the page, undeniable . . . Cooke creates characters as if from the inside out. They live urgently and intimately . . . because the author infuses them with such telling detail . . . Cooke challenges readers and rewards us in surprising and lovely ways.”

—*Portland Press Herald*

“Sex and death go hand-in-hand in Cooke’s new book. Many of the eleven stories explore the inflamed needs of fading bodies. But Cooke’s wit and heart enliven such somber material. Her clear, careful prose communicates understanding without resorting to cynicism or sentimentality.”

—*Miami Herald*

“Carolyn Cooke’s writing is addictive. Her prose is so compulsive and flavorful, you can almost feel it in your bloodstream . . . Cooke’s stories do not just confront realities: they grab them, pinch them, knead them, and then hand them over to the reader—who devours each story and is left with cravings for more.”

—Bustle.com

“Erotic, whimsical, profound . . . Cooke writes with passion, empathy, and considerable humor as her characters face life-changing issues of divorce, illness, self-destruction, and impending death.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“Cooke’s new collection is one of the very best of 2013 . . . Cooke’s stories twist and turn, playing games with language . . . They leave you with something: shards of phrases; a lifetime of attitudes conveyed in a word or an aside; or odd, perfect details that stick in your mind.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“An edgy collection of powerful, engaging, offbeat stories . . . The product of a mature and considerable talent.”

—*Booklist*

“Cooke takes readers to various cultures and times to examine the anxiety, hopes, struggles, and, above all, the ever-present human quest for love and acceptance . . . A definite page-turner, leaving the discerning reader with memorable character upon which to reflect . . . Cooke keeps readers aware of the travails and triumphs of their humanity.”

—*Library Journal*

#### About the Author

Carolyn Cooke’s *Daughters of the Revolution* was listed among the best novels of 2011 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The New Yorker*. Her short fiction, collected in *The Bostons*, won the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award and has appeared in *AGNI*, *The Paris Review* and two volumes each of *The Best American Short Stories* and *The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*. She teaches in the MFA writing program at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Eliseo Watkins:

The book Amor and Psycho: Stories make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book Amor and Psycho: Stories for being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book Amor and Psycho: Stories. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

#### Ida Resler:

Typically the book Amor and Psycho: Stories has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research before write this book. This book very easy to read you will get the point easily after looking over this book.

**Christina Fitts:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Amor and Psycho: Stories, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

**Shane Dagostino:**

You can get this Amor and Psycho: Stories by go to the bookstore or Mall. Simply viewing or reviewing it could to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for ones knowledge. Kinds of this reserve are various. Not only simply by written or printed but also can you enjoy this book by simply e-book. In the modern era like now, you just looking by your mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your reserve. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still up-date. Let's try to choose correct ways for you.

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