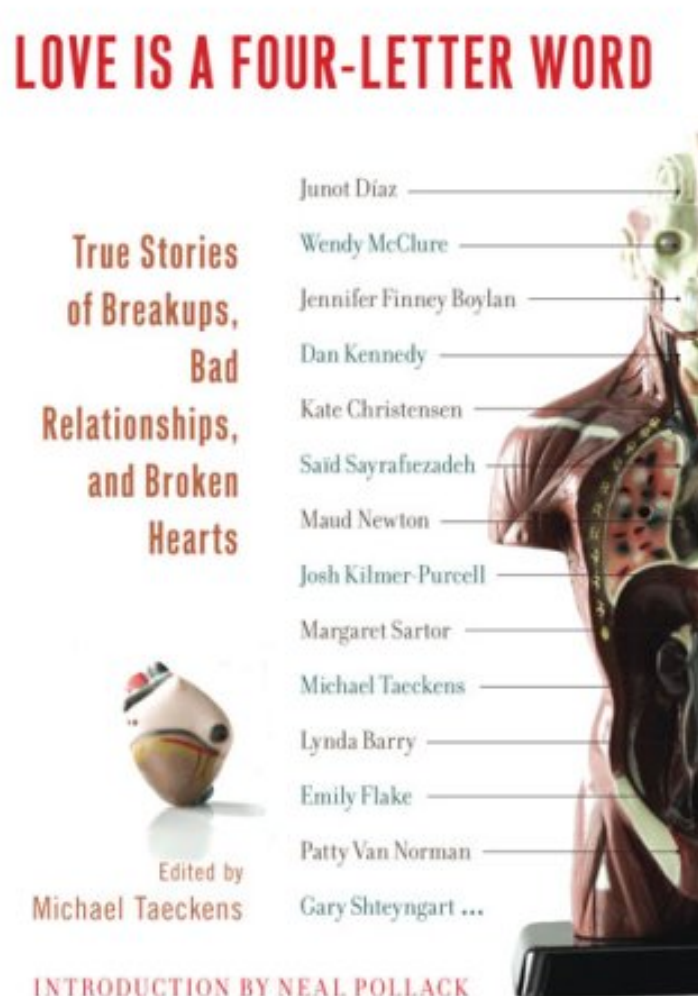


(Ebook free) Love Is a Four-Letter Word: True Stories of Breakups, Bad Relationships, and Broken Hearts

Love Is a Four-Letter Word: True Stories of Breakups, Bad Relationships, and Broken Hearts

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From Plume : Love Is a Four-Letter Word: True Stories of Breakups, Bad Relationships, and Broken Hearts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Is a Four-Letter Word: True Stories of Breakups, Bad Relationships, and Broken Hearts:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AliceAsABrunetteI just love this book. That's all that needs to be said.5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Love in all its dirty splendorBy M. RomanoLove

and relationships are complicated. This collection of experiences covers lots of ground. The rending of the human heart here is extraordinary. You will laugh, cry, talk to yourself about similar happenings in your life, ditch your idiotic romantic ideals and question just about every assumption you have made in your life and then some. This book has some fine young writers who write with an honesty and openness that befits the enormously mysterious and baffling world of love and relationships. These are the things people do to each other and for each other in the name of love told with articulate black n' blue humor. Buy it, read it, read it to other people, give it to other people, read it again, buy it for other people. You get the idea. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected. By DLee This book was not what I expected and was somewhat bizarre. The "love" relationships in the different chapters were not your typical ones. I didn't expect to be reading about relationships involving cross dressers, pedophiles, substance abusers, and egomaniacs. After reading a few chapters, with each chapter being a different story, I threw the book in the recycle container. I was hoping for more "typical" love relationships that went bad. Obviously, I don't recommend this book.

From Junot Díaz, Lynda Barry, Gary Shteyngart, and Kate Christensen to popular up-and-comers like Dan Kennedy, Wendy McClure, and Brock Clarke, *Love Is a Four-Letter Word* is a dead-on contemporary collection of true stories of seduction, heartbreak, and regret. Fearlessly revealing their shattered hearts and crushed egos; their indiscretions and indignities; their delusions, desperation, and disappointments, these talented writers capture the dark side of love in prose ranging from comic to poetic, poignant to cringe-inducing. Also featuring three cartoon/ graphic essays as a sixteen-page color insert, this anthology is perfect for anyone who's ever loved and lost.

From Publishers Weekly Breakups are hard to forget, and this collection—surprisingly restrained yet full of emotion—is equally memorable. Patty Van Norman's two-frame graphic story *Dear Ugly, Dear Fatso* (other graphic entries are from Lynda Barry and Emily Flake) resonates like a quick punch to the solar plexus. Josh Kilmer-Purcell writes of the lover who could only perform with Wonder Woman on the television. George Singleton urinates a bellyful of beer into his ex's kitty litter box. Maud Newton tells of a sex- and rage-filled relationship, wondering: was he the abusive one, or was I? Taeckens, publicity director at Algonquin Books, anthologizes modern heartbreak in stories replete with contemporary commentaries (e.g., using Match.com to express a new relationship status). In a book full of hits, Amanda Stern's *Scout's Honor*, about camping in the Washington Cascades, stands out. The collection's material could make one feel a bit voyeuristic, but throughout this tender book one instead feels like a privileged confidant. (July 28) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Pretty irresistible. Some of that has to do with the subject, of course: literature and heartbreak go together like Anna and Vronsky. And a lot of it has to do with the tone—the usual regret, shame, and pain are leavened here with a generous tablespoon of wry humor." -Greg Cowles, *New York Times* "Paper Cuts" "The humiliating and occasionally hilarious break-ups described in *Love Is a Four-Letter Word*...run the emotional gamut from neediness and infatuation to rage and disgust." -*Wall Street Journal* "Heartbreak, humor, humiliation, and self-discovery—it's all here in this collection. With crabs. And poignancy. And Wonder Woman." -Shelf Awareness "Love Is a Four-Letter Word offers flashes of insights from well-known writers about love gone wrong... The pieces sparkle with wit, pain and honesty." -Bookpage "A book full of hits . . . Breakups are hard to forget, and this collection—surprisingly restrained yet full of emotion—is equally memorable." -Publishers Weekly "Honest, sad, witty, and fierce, here is a breakup anthology that will break your heart." -ZZ Packer, author of *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* "Funny, poignant." -Real Simple "These dispatches from the deep dark depths of romantic doom will make you cringe, laugh, wince, sigh, laugh again, nod along in I've-been-there empathy, and recoil in thank-Jesus-I-never-went-there chagrin. Here's the end of love, or what sometimes passes for it, in all its many forms: wistful, bitter, confused, tender, regret-strewn, and sometimes freakin' deranged." -JONNY MILES, author of *Dear American Airlines* "As hard to avert your eyes from as a traffic accident . . . This is not a pity party. No, in the essays carrying the biggest charge here, the authors anatomize their own complicity and duplicity." -Elle "The song says breaking up is hard to do, but the superb writers in *The Book of Exes* say heartbreak is just a little more complex . . . Hilarious, poignant, and insightful." -JENNIFER GILMORE, author of *Golden Country* "Rewarding and worth dipping into . . . Standouts include Junot Diaz's 'Homecoming, with Turtle,' Gary Shteyngart's 'Texas' and Maud Newton's 'Conversations You Have at Twenty.' Humorist Dan Kennedy, author of the acerbic 2008 memoir *Rock On*, crafts a hilarious piece about dating a divorced aerobics instructor a decade older than he." -Kirkus "It is a truth universally acknowledged that anyone who has ever ventured into a relationship has a messy breakup story to tell, and this anthology throbs with tales of heartbreak and woe by the best and brightest of today's literary scene. In these deft, funny, and honest tales you're apt to recognize yourself on the giving end, on the receiving end and, God help you, on both ends." -MARK SARVAS, author of *Harry, Revised* "An alluringly voyeuristic collection of romantic cautionary tales, without the predictable happily-ever-after endings—at least 50 new ways to leave your lover." -AMY FINE COLLINS, author of *The God of Driving* "If I were able to write about my ex-girlfriends with this level of wit, passion, and insight, I probably would have a lot fewer of them!" -KEVIN SMOKLER, author of *Bookmark Now: Writing in Unreadable Times* "Love is laid bare in these absolutely

human stories, and in so many different ways that I understood more about myself than I could have ever entertained. The Book of Exes is an exquisite glimpse into the heart, into romance, into love. These words hurt and shine as much as their many landscapes, and I am left with a less broken heart for having read them." -BRAD LAND, author of Goat: A Memoir and Pilgrims Upon the Earth
About the Author Michael Taeckens is the publicity director for Algonquin Books and received his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.