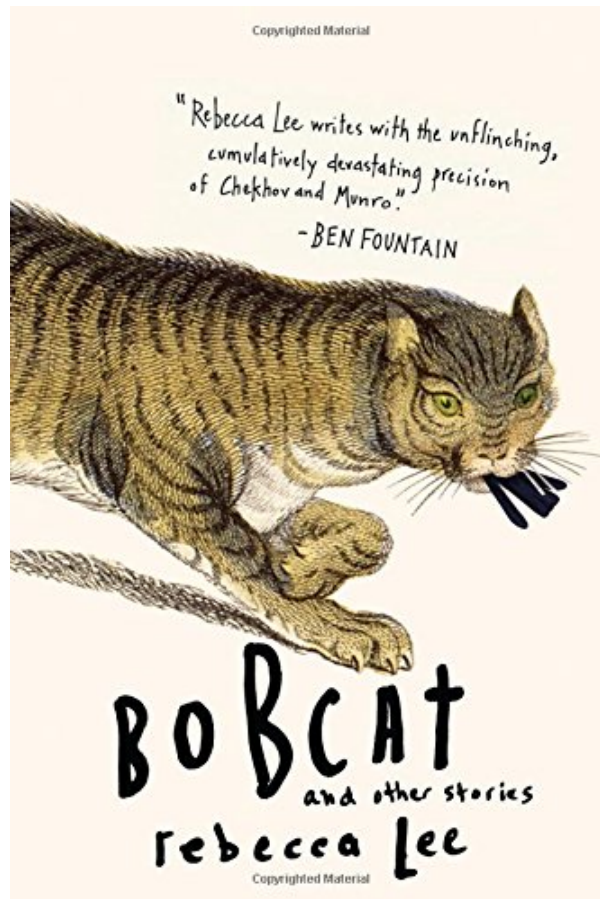


BOBCAT AND OTHER STORIES BY REBECCA LEE



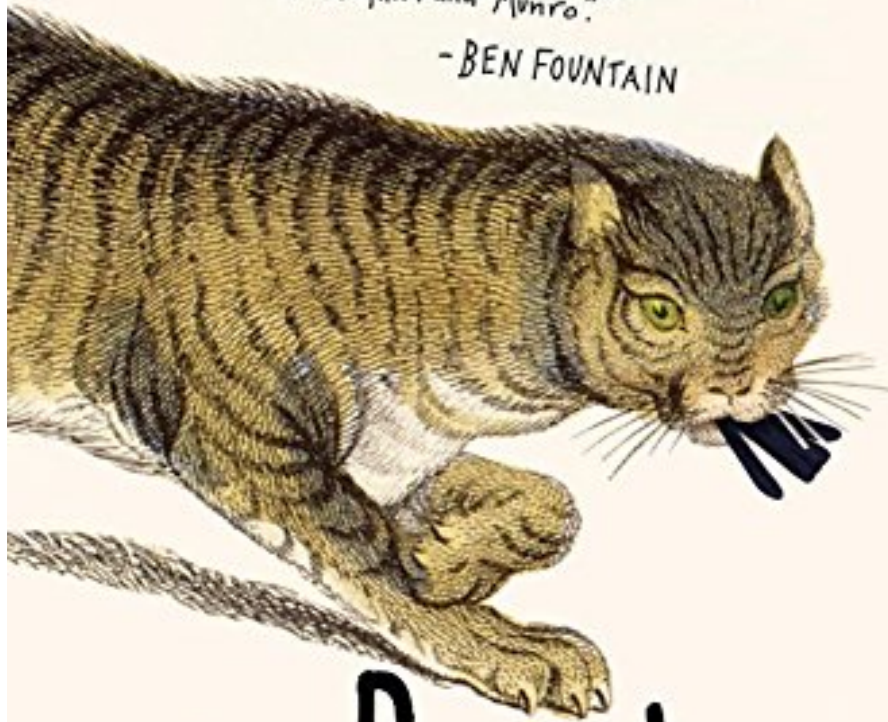
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Rebecca Lee, one of our most gifted and original short story writers, guides readers into a range of landscapes, both foreign and domestic, crafting stories as rich as novels. A student plagiarizes a paper and holds fast to her alibi until she finds herself complicit in the resurrection of one professor's shadowy past. A dinner party becomes the occasion for the dissolution of more than one marriage. A woman is hired to find a wife for the one true soulmate she's ever found. In all, Rebecca Lee traverses the terrain of infidelity, obligation, sacrifice, jealousy, and yet finally, optimism. Showing people at their most vulnerable, Lee creates characters so wonderfully flawed, so driven by their desire, so compelled to make sense of their human condition, that it's impossible not to feel for them when their fragile belief in romantic love, domestic bliss, or academic seclusion fails to provide them with the sort of force field they'd expected.

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glimpses of brilliance

By She Treads Softly

Bobcat and Other Stories by Rebecca Lee is a collection of seven short stories. The stories included are: Bobcat; Banks of the Vistula; Slatland; Min; World Party; Fialta; Settlers.

"Bobcat," the opening story, features a dinner party that foreshadows some unexpected results and entertains doubts about the veracity of more than one guest's story.

In "Banks of the Vistula" a student plagiarist is known but not quite revealed.

"Slatland" has a character who encounters the same therapist twice in her life under very different circumstances.

A young woman helps find a suitable spouse for her male best friend in "Min".

In "World Party" a committee composed of peers must rule on the behavior of another professor.

During a summer retreat at "Fialta" student architects learn more about life than academics.

The closing story, "Settlers," features close friends over several dinner parties, culminating in one unforgettable one.

All of these stories feature characters who are well educated. Many are involved in academia as students or professors. Lee's stories are all told from a first-person perspective as they delve into juxtaposed contrasting themes involving faithfulness, friendship, security, apathy, honesty, and relationships. The writing is richly descriptive and captures many nuances and layers of thought and meaning in each of the stories. Often it felt like what was at the edge of being said or revealed was looming over the seemingly everyday conversations between the characters.

In several cases, as I reached the end of a story I was filled with a sense of melancholy. The endings struck me as raw, unfinished, in a way because there was no definite conclusion, or, perhaps, overriding answer to some of the concerns of the characters or actions in the stories. It made each story sort of an exquisite little glimpse into only part of a life, never the whole. This created a sort of a "little Match Girl" syndrome for me; I was seeing these glimpses of brilliance that ended too soon and I wanted more. The quandary is, naturally, that giving me more would not necessarily equate a better story.

very highly recommended

Disclosure: My Kindle edition was courtesy of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill via Netgalley for review purposes.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

One of my favorite books in the last year

By Speedreader

This is such a special collection of stories. I was in love from the first story all the way to the last. I read the book while traveling and it made me so happy even through turbulence, small planes and crying children. Rebecca Lee is such a talented writer her stories are sophisticated, layered, funny at times, crisp and wise. Strongly encourage other customers to purchase this book This is the first review I've ever given on Amazon-I am that passionate about the book...I wanted to let other people know about it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Rebecca Lee Has a Gift With Words

By Fairbanks Reader - Bonnie Brody

Rebecca Lee has a wonderful way with words. The stories in this collection vary in their consistency but her writing style all but makes up for that.

In the title story, a dinner party is held and more than one marriage ends in dissolution due to a surprise visit.

On the Banks of the Vistula is about a college student who plagiarizes a paper and her professor is suspicious. She manages to convince him that she wrote it herself but the repercussions are both more, and less, than she imagined.

In Slatland, an eleven year-old girl sees a therapist one time for depressions. He teaches her about Slatland, a way to go above yourself, look down on things, and gain perspective. This works for twenty years until she believes that the Romanian man that she is engaged to is really committed to someone else.

Min is about a young woman who goes with her closest male friend to Hong Kong. There, she is charged with the task of finding an appropriate wife for him. The dynamics of this are complex and confusing to her.

In World Party, a female professor is asked to vote on the appropriateness of a colleague's tacit encouragement for students going on a hunger strike. At the same time, she is worrying about her son who is both extremely intelligent and eerily odd.

Fialta is an architectural community where a young man goes for a residency. Love affairs are forbidden here but he falls hard for a woman named Sands and jeopardizes his time there.

All in all, the stories were spotty with some leaving me scratching my head. However, as I said before, Lee has a gift with words and the reading itself was very satisfying.

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