

# Rat Boy

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Clare - Susan Lynn Peterson  
2011-05-04  
Clare Keane is fourteen years old when her mother dies of pneumonia in the tenement room they share in turn-of-the-century Cork, Ireland. Left with two younger brothers, her closest family thousands of miles away in St. Paul, Minnesota, Clare begins a dangerous journey that takes her from Cork through the port of Queenstown to Ellis Island, New York, and finally St. Paul. Rich in historical detail, Clare allows the reader to live the

sights, sounds, and smells of a 1906 journey of immigration. "Clare" was named a Reader Favorite Award finalist for 2011.

**Walter** - Barbara Wersba  
2016-11-04  
This is the story of a writer and a reader. The writer is a person. The reader is a rat. They share an old house on Long Island, but have never met. How these two lonely creatures discover one another is the essence of this story.

**To The Good People of Gaza**  
- Jackie Lubeck 2022-06-16

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The first anthology of youth plays from Gaza and the wider Palestinian region, this timely collection ties together nineteen plays produced by Theatre Day Productions, one of the foremost community theatres in the Middle East. Written by playwright Jackie Lubeck, this collection responds to the siege on Gaza and the Israeli military operations from 2009 to 2014, reflecting how Gazan youth deal with trauma, loss and urban destruction. In the nineteen plays within this anthology, the reader and theatrical producer witnesses experiences of a forgotten youth, besieged by a silent international community and a brutal wall. The plays are arranged into five different thematic series, which include family entanglements, loss and the fundamental goodness and resourcefulness of human beings.

**The United States of Air** - J.M. Porup 2012-09-21

The National Sewer Agency is spying on people's toilets, looking for food terrorists...

Food Enforcement Agent Jason Frolick believes in America. He believes in eating air. He struggles to get the food monkey off his back. As part of the Global War on Fat, his job is to put food terrorists in Fat Camp. When a pizza dealer gets whacked in the park across the street from the Thin House, the Prophet Jones himself asks Frolick to investigate. For the first time ever, Frolick solves a murder-- but what he finds out shakes his faith. Will he ever be able to eat air again?

*Rat Boy* - Pam Mostek  
2017-02-02

Living in a rundown motel-turned-make-shift apartment with his callous father, kid brother, Dallas, and aging grandmother is just one of the many secrets Beemer struggles to keep especially from his archenemy, Vinney. A heartless bully, Vinney and his goons will use whatever they can to get to Beemer. Usually quiet and low-key, Beemer makes a lifetime habit of flying under the radar and being invisible and miserable while enduring the

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unendurable. Then one day, Vinney decides to up the ante and pick on Dallas, too. Beemer, desperate to protect him, takes matters into his own hands. The consequences of that decision are life-changing.

**The Waste Land** - Tim Hodkinson 2021-08-05

Second instalment in a medieval adventure thriller series featuring Irish Knight Templar Richard Savage.

*Stay Away from Rat Boy!* -

Laurie Lears 2009-02-01

Tyler isn't nice to the other kids at school. He doesn't care about anyone...until he gets to know the class pet, a white rat named Snowball. Then Tyler tells everyone his new name is Rat Boy! Now all the kids are afraid of him. His teacher tries to talk to him about how he can be a better friend. But Bully Rat Boy doesn't need any friend but Snowball. Then one day Snowball chews the string on his cage door and escapes. The children can't find Snowball anywhere. Rat Boy feels awful. He even hangs reward posters around the school. When the cook finds

Snowball in the storage closet, she tells Rat Boy to grab a friend and catch the rat. But who will help Rat Boy? He has no friends.

Contested Bodies - John Hassard 2003-10-04

Contested Bodies brings together a number of different accounts and perspectives on the body, drawing out some of the key connections and disjunctures from this most contested of topics.

*The Savage Nation* - Michael Savage 2003-01-05

Michael Savage attacks big government and liberal media bias. The son of immigrants, Savage shows how traditional American freedoms are being destroyed from the outside and undermined from within-not just our own government, but also from alien forces within our own society. Savage argues that if the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, then only a more "savage nation" will enjoy these liberties. Savage's high ratings and the rapid growth of his program prove he is in touch with the concerns of the average American.

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**Rat Boys** - Thom Eberhardt  
2002

Fourteen-year-olds Marci and Summer use a magic ring to turn two rats into cute boys so that they can have dates for the Spring Fling.

The Wasted Land - Tim  
Hodkinson

My Date with Satan - Stacey  
Richter 2000

A collection of tales offering a view of American life and popular culture includes a dog who gains art world fame and a Cat Lady who loves Rat Boy.

**Rats on the Page** - Michael  
Dahl 2010-08

When two homeless boys find a mysterious book about rats in a dumpster, it turns one of the boys into a rat under the spell of the Spellbinder, and the guardians of the Library of Doom must stop him.

**In Shining Armor** - Elliott  
James 2016-04-26

This fairy godmother's got claws. When someone kidnaps the last surviving descendant of the Grandmaster of the Knights Templar, it's bad news. When the baby is the key to the

tenuous alliance between a large werewolf pack and the knights, it's even worse news. They're at each other's throats before they've even begun to look for baby Constance. But whoever kidnapped Constance didn't count on one thing: she's also the goddaughter of John Charming. Modern-day descendant of a long line of famous dragon slayers, witch finders, and wrong righters. John may not have any experience being a parent, but someone is about to find out that he can be one mean mother... IN SHINING ARMOR is the fourth novel in a series which gives a new twist to the Prince Charming tale. Pax Arcana CharmingDaringFearlessIn Shining ArmorLegend Has It Short Fiction in the Pax Arcana world:Charmed I'm SureDon't Go Chasing WaterfallsPushing LuckSurreal EstateDog-GoneBulls Rush InTalking Dirty Secret of the Stones - J. Michael Blumer 2022-01-24 Daran's two identities complicate his life as both personalities become key

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figures in the growing threat of war. The magic maneuvers him into yet a third role as chief of the Jonquesha tribes. As war nears, all three of his identities are summoned to the same war council. Daran grows from young boy to young man along with his best friend Gilmer, as he waits for parents who never come. Gilmer wants adventure and botches an attempt to rescue Queen Abrienda's daughters. He brings the princesses to Daran. Daran escapes the city with the girls, but they think he is the simple Rat Boy who works in the sewers. The princesses search for the head of the resistance troops. Separated from the girls, Daran is captured by the Jonquesha tribal people. Through his wits and a little magic help from the stones, he becomes their chief, and takes on yet a third identity and further complicates his life.

**Rob Rat** - Mark Guy Pearse  
1878

**Ghost of the Keepers' Monk**  
- J. Michael Blumer 2022-01-01  
The Ghost of the Keepers Monk

is part legend, part mystery. It holds two of three mysterious stones that control all magic. The war lord, Califae controls the third and most powerful stone. He's using its magic to help him conquer all of Amerath. Daran, a teenager who calls himself Rat Boy to shield his true identity, unravels the ghost's secrets, and is "adopted" by intelligence in the Monk's two stones. The stones control events and pit an unwilling Daran against Califae. The stones' first task for Daran's alternate identity is a rescue. There's a problem. The princess he's sent to rescue, despises Rat Boy but dreams of marrying Daran, not knowing they're the same person. When Daran tries to sort things out, the magic further complicates his life, manipulating him into a third identity and deeper into the politics of the growing war. Daran wants to resume his quiet life as Rat Boy, but the magic stones of Amerath have other plans for him.

**Why You Should Listen**

**When Your Animals Don't -**

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Diana DelMonte 2014-12-16  
How do our animals feel when we are not honest with ourselves or are not mindful of our thoughts? How do they react to our conflicts or unresolved issues? Why do they sometimes leave home? Diana DelMonte presents our animal friends as clever, complex beings capable of deep emotions and wisdom. We find an opportunity to learn about ourselves through the behaviors of our generous, kindhearted companions such as Dali, the dog who tore the house apart until his person learned to handle her own anxious, addictive behaviors. Diana welcomes us to the world of animal communication, gives us five steps to listen to animals, and teaches us how to develop our awareness skills. This book, filled with true stories, spiritual direction, and science, is designed to deepen your intuition and will radically alter your bond with animals. It is a classic guide for anyone wishing to forge a spiritual connection with the majesty

and mystery of the animal world. Diana DelMonte has written a marvel of a book! Every page is a story of compassion. Read this and be amazed and touched. —Phil Thompson, Bodhi Tree Bookstore  
Diana opens windows to new ways of seeing our deepest interconnectedness with all animals and all that is. —Allen M. Schoen, DVM, MS, PhD, and author of Kindred Spirits  
In this beautifully written book, Diana Del Monte has created a must-read for those who yearn to receive the heart-to-heart messages our animal friends communicate to us for our own inner healing. —Michael Bernard Beckwith, author of Life Visioning  
**Dirt Classroom** - Matt Chadwick 2016-07-01  
At 15, I made the decision to leave home and school to work on some of the world's largest cattle stations. Over the next two years, i was attacked by a few wild animals,experienced unexplained phenomenon, had a massive learning curve and truly experienced the

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Australian outback.

I Was a Rat! Or the Scarlet Slippers - Philip Pullman  
2018-06

Standing in the moonlight was a little boy in a page's uniform . . . 'Bless my soul!' said Bob. 'Who are you?' When a small boy turns up on the doorstep of old Bob the cobbler and Joan the washerwoman, all he can tell them is 'I was a rat!'. But who is he really, and where has he come from? A wonderful, funny, surprising and sharply-observed re-telling of Cinderella.

*The Potato Factory* - Bryce Courtenay 2010

Ikey Solomon is in the business of thieving and he's very good at it. Ikey's partner in crime is his mistress, the forthright Mary Abacus, until misfortune befalls them. They are parted and each must make the harsh journey from thriving nineteenth century London to the convict settlement of Van Diemen's Land. In the backstreets and dives of Hobart Town, Mary learns the art of brewing and builds The Potato Factory, where she

plans a new future. But her ambitions are threatened by Ikey's wife, Hannah, her old enemy. The two women raise their separate families, one legitimate and the other bastard. As each woman sets out to destroy the other, the families are brought to the edge of disaster.

*LIFE The Rat Pack* - The Editors of LIFE 2017-05-26  
They weren't the original bad boys of stage and screen, but they were the most famous: Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, Peter Lawford and so many hangers-on and wannabes, male and female. Revisit the 1960s in this reissue of a classic LIFE special edition, the Rat Pack is in town. Among the highlights: A new introduction, commemorating what would have been Dean Martin's 100th birthday Inside the friendship between Sinatra and John F. Kennedy Jr. The birth of Vegas and how Sin City became the sensation it is today Rare and intimate photos from the great LIFE magazine photographer John Dominis

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**The Healer of Taselon** - Ian Ralph 2008-08-27

Fantasy Novel. Set in the fantasy world of Aldamar, in the City of Taselon. An Elf arrives in the city to search for her roots, and her search is complicated by Mystery and Romance.

*Grandma Duck Is Dead* - Larry Shue 1984-10

*A Rat Is a Pig Is a Dog Is a Boy* - Wesley J. Smith 2012

Overview: In *A Rat is a Pig is a Dog is a Boy*, Wesley Smith explains how, over the past thirty years, the concept of "animal rights" has undergone literal and extreme interpretations in Western culture. Although there are activists who seek better treatment of animals through welfare work, there are also those who see "animal rights" as a belief system, an ideology, and for some even a quasi-religion that both implicitly and explicitly seeks to create a moral equivalency between the value of human lives and those of animals. Smith explains how animal rights ideologues

embrace their beliefs with a fervency that is remarkably intense and sustained, to the point that some dedicate their entire lives to "speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves." Some believe their cause to be so righteous that they engage in vandalism, harassment, or even terrorism at the expense of medical research, the clothing and food industries, and others accused of "animal abuse." For those of us who respect and appreciate animals, but who also understand that our obligation to humanity matters more, *A Rat is a Pig is a Dog is a Boy* is an important case against an increasingly radical dogma.

**Race, Place and Globalization** - Anoop Nayak 2016-09-08

What does it mean to be young in a changing world? How are migration, settlement and new urban cultures shaping young lives? And in particular, are race, place and class still meaningful to contemporary youth cultures? This path-breaking book shows how young people are responding

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differently to recent social, economic and cultural transformations. From the spirit of white localism deployed by de-industrialized football supporters, to the hybrid multicultural exchanges displayed by urban youth, young people are finding new ways of wrestling with questions of race and ethnicity. Through globalization is whiteness now being displaced by black culture -- in fashion, music and slang -- and if so, what impact is this having on race politics? Moreover, what happens to those people and places that are left behind by changes in late modernity? By developing a unique brand of spatial cultural studies, this book explores complex formations of race and class as they arise in the subtle textures of whiteness, respectability and youth subjectivity. This is the first book to look specifically at young ethnicities through the prism of local-global change. Eloquently written, its riveting ethnographic case studies and insider accounts will ensure

that this book becomes a benchmark publication for writing on race in years to come.

**Snow Leopard** - Robin E Freeman 2020-11-04

The steel shod hooves struck him full in the face with such power he was sent reeling backwards, and he screamed in agony as one eye exploded from the impact and half his face was ripped off. Despite the agony of his injuries he was acutely aware that his left foot had nothing beneath it, and his mind recoiled in horror as he teetered on the edge of the trail with a black void sucking at him. The sixteen riders and sixty four horses in the expedition are beset with cataclysmic snow storms and minus thirty degree temperatures as they travel higher into the forbidding Alps. The horses are attacked by fierce snow leopards time and again as they camp in the rugged mountains, and fearless wolf packs also prey on the horses. Unknown to the expedition, to prevent Avalon's descendants laying claim to the

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throne as the legitimate heirs, soldiers of the false King lay in ambush to ensure they never reach the kingdom of Nabadon alive. There are traitors everywhere ready to betray them for a handful of silver coins, and trusting anyone could come at the price of their freedom or death.

### **Youth Offending and Youth**

**Justice** - Monica Barry

2009-09-15

How is the modern world shaping young people and youth crime? What impact is this having on the latest policies and practice? Are current youth justice services working? With contributions from leading researchers in the field, this book offers an insightful, scholarly and critical analysis of such key issues. Youth Offending and Youth Justice engages constructively with current policy and practice debates, tackling issues such as the criminalisation and penalisation of youth, sentencer decision-making, the incarceration of young people and the role of public opinion.

It also features an applied focus on professional practice. Drawing on a wide range of high-quality research, this book will enrich the work of practitioners, managers, policy-makers, students and academics in social work, youth work, criminal justice and youth justice in the UK and beyond.

### **The Brand Who Cried Wolf** -

Scott Deming 2010-07-02

Branding has become the narrow responsibility of the marketing department, and customers have stopped believing the ads. This book shows you how to build a powerful, lasting brand. You will learn how to involve the entire organization, from sales, customer service, shipping, product design, and marketing, in the branding process. The author discusses how to create powerful, emotional, and unique experiences for others, turn every customer into an evangelist, and greatly expand your reach of influence. Use this book to define your personal and professional brand.

*Future Ratboy and the Invasion of the Nom Noms* - Jim Smith  
2016-07-28

From the bestselling and Roald Dahl Funny Prize-winning author of *Barry Loser* comes the sequel to the brilliant *Future Ratboy and the Attack of the Killer Robot Grannies!* Perfect for readers aged 7-10 years old and fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Tom Gates* and *Dennis the Menace*. When a bolt of lightning hit Colin Lamppost he was zapped millions of years into the future and turned into a half boy, half rat, half TV! With new superkeel powers and a real life sidekick in *Not Bird*, *Future Ratboy* was born. In this new adventure, can *Future Ratboy* and *Not Bird* save Shnozville from the bitey little insects that are turning everyone into zombies? Will they defeat the evil Mr X? And how will they ever find their way home? This laugh-out-loud, unlikely superhero comedy adventure will delight all those that enjoyed *Tom Gates*, *Wimpy Kid*, *Captain Underpants* and *Jedi Academy*. Jim Smith is the

keelest kids' book author in the whole wide world amen. He graduated from art school with first class honours (the best you can get) and is the author of the award-winning and bestselling *BARRY LOSER* series: *I am not a Loser*, *I am still not a Loser*, *I am sort of a Loser*, *I am so over being a Loser*, *Barry Loser and the Holiday of Doom*, *Barry Loser and the Case of the Crumpled Carton* and *Barry Loser Hates Half Term*. He lives in London. He also designs cards and gifts under the name *Waldo Pancake*.

**Headlock** - Joyce Sweeney  
2015-02-10

Being a pro wrestler takes talent, guts, and hard work—can Kyle make it to the pros and live the life he wants? Kyle Bailey is a normal high school senior with a secret ambition: to be a wrestling superstar with the WWE. When he hears about a wrestling class at the local gym, he knows this may be his one shot at making his dream come true. The only problem is that no one in his life understands

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his love of wrestling, so he can't tell anyone what he's doing—especially not his grandmother, who has raised him since he was a kid. As Kyle's talent becomes increasingly apparent, his instructor takes notice and invites him to wrestle in an upcoming professional match. With his newfound success—and his beautiful wrestler girlfriend—Kyle feels like he's finally exactly where he belongs. But when his grandmother's health takes a turn for the worse, Kyle is torn between needing to care for her and wanting to follow his dreams. He isn't ready to give up on being a pro wrestler, but he can't abandon the woman who has taken care of him his entire life. *Headlock* is a heartwarming novel about the strength it takes to let go of what you love and the courage it takes to ask for help.

**Finders Keepers** - Robert Trouble Johnson 2017-01-22  
When a young and in love couple decide they want to share their own apartment. their plans for happily ever

after are interrupted when they stumble upon a stash that was left behind by the previous tenants. The couple goes from rags to riches and then the drama unfolds when a posse of vicious Jamaicans return for their misplaced stash. can three beautiful women take on the ruthless Jamaicans and live to tell about it?

[When Ratboy Lived Next Door](#) - Chris Woodworth 2015-04-28  
From the spring day in 1962 when Willis Merrill and his pet raccoon arrive in Maywood, Indiana, they are nothing but trouble for Lydia Carson. Lydia nicknames Willis "Ratboy" and wonders why he can't be more like his handsome older brother, Elliot. Life gets more complicated when Lydia alienates Elliot by insulting Willis and comes to a standoff with her mother. In her struggle to make amends with all, Lydia finds an ally in Willis and discovers the good in herself. In her sharp, fresh voice, the author captures the flavor of a small town in Middle America and the hearts of its populace as she tells a

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powerful story about the resiliency - and flexibility -of family.

*I Was a Rat!* - Philip Pullman  
2017-03-29

"I Was a Rat!" So insists a scruffy boy named Roger. Maybe it's true. But what is he now? A terrifying monster running wild in the sewers? The Daily Scourge is sure of it. A victim of "Rodent Delusion"? The hospital nurse says yes. A lucrative fairground freak? He is to Mr. Tapscrew. A champion wriggler and a budding thief? That's what Billy thinks. Or just an ordinary small boy, though a little ratty in his habits? Only three people believe this version of the story. And it may take a royal intervention—and a bit of magic—to convince the rest of the world. Set against the backdrop of a Royal Wedding—and a playful parody of the press, *I Was a Rat!* is a magical weaving of humor, fairy tale, and adventure.

*Ravenous Things* - Derrick Chow  
2022-07-26

"Beautifully written and spectacularly spooky, *Ravenous Things* is an instant new

favorite!" —Claribel Ortega, New York Times best-selling author of *Witchlings* Climb aboard the midnight train! Things wondrous and terrible await you... Twelve-year-old Reggie Wong has a quick temper that's always getting him into trouble at school, while at home his mom struggles to get out of bed--let alone leave their apartment. That's why Reggie desperately needs his dad back. One problem: His dad is dead. Enter the Conductor, a peculiar man who promises to make Reggie's wish to see his father just one more time come true. All he must do is climb aboard the man's subway train, which leaves St. Patrick Station promptly at midnight. Desperate to have his dad and happy family back, Reggie takes him up on the offer, only to discover the train is filled with other children who have lost a loved one, just like him. As he speeds through the wild, uncharted tunnels beneath the city, Reggie meets Chantal, an annoyingly peppy girl obsessed with lists and psychiatry, and

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Gareth, his arch-nemesis and bully since the fourth grade. As each kid steps off the train and into the arms of their lost family member, Reggie can't believe his impossible wish is about to come true. But when Reggie comes to the end of the line and sees his father waiting for him, he soon discovers all is not as it seems. He and his unlikely new friends have been ensnared in a deadly trap. Together, the three must find a way to foil the Conductor's diabolical plot and find their way out of the underground subway where horrors worse than they have ever imagined lurk around every corner. The rats of St. Patrick Station have taken over and they're absolutely ravenous. In this stunning debut, author Derrick Chow reenvision's the tale of the Pied Piper. Both terrifying and hauntingly beautiful, Chow masterfully uses literal and figurative monsters to explore the themes of grief and how we handle loss.

### **Visions in the Fire** - J.

Michael Blumer 2022-01-24

The adventures of Daran and

Gilmer intertwine guided by the magic of the stones. War is immanent, and everyone is searching for the mysterious Rat Boy or his Friend Daran. Daran's parents escape captivity and join in the search. Gilmer becomes a spy.

Califae's magic grows, adding to concern of the magic of Daran's stones. While Daran is busy learning magic, Gilmer finds his own adventure. The magic of the stones gifts Gilmer two magic knives.

Gilmer teams up with Bieber, a spy from the country of DeAris. Bieber has Gilmer masquerade as a distant nephew named Glendon when Bieber's daughter, Keelen joins them. A strained romance grows between Keelen and Glendon, as Glendon helps her search for Gilmer. He doesn't know how to tell her he is Gilmer.

Daran's parents escape Califae and with a small band of friends head south, further away from Daran. War grows.

### **The Joy** - Paul Howard

2013-01-08

One man's story of life in The Joy -- compulsive, chilling and

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frank. A no-holds-barred account of a criminal's time in the notorious Dublin prison, as revealed to journalist Paul Howard. This extraordinary life story tells it all. The desperate lifestyle of a junkie; bullying and savage beatings among the prisoners; ingenious drug-smuggling ploys; the despairing cry for help of a failed suicide attempt. But alongside the pain there is humour -- from the hilarity of World Cup celebrations to the distraction of a beautiful aerobics teacher, from bingeing on altar wine to the shortest-ever "hunger strike". The first ever glimpse of Mountjoy Prison -- from the inside. Illustrated with black & white photographs.

Red Girl Rat Boy - Cynthia Flood 2013-09-23

A Quill & Quire Best Book of the Year  
A Globe & Mail Best Short Fiction Title  
A National Post Best Short Fiction Title  
A January Magazine Best Book of the Year  
Shortlisted for the 2014 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize  
Longlisted for the 2014 Frank O'Connor Award  
"Complicated,

passionate, genuine."—Chatelaine Women. Young women, old women. The hair-obsessed, the politically driven, the sure-footed, the bony-butted, the awkward and compulsive and alone. Sleep-deprived and testy. Exhausted and accepting. Among the innumerable wives, husbands, sisters, and in-laws vexed by short temper and insecurity throughout this short story collection, Cynthia Flood's protagonists stand out as citizens of a reality that the rest of the world will only partially understand. New from the Journey Prize-winning author, *Red Girl Rat Boy* is a collection of astonishing range and assured technique, whose voices—gothic, peculiar, domestic, and strange—remain as passionate and complex as ever. Praise for *Red Girl Rat Boy* "Revenge and politics season this potent and passionate collection of stories. Flood excavates indelible histories that haunt even those who've shaken the dust of the past." —Aritha van Herk, author of *Judith* "Flood's eye is

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unflinching, her language energetic and precise, her vision bracing, passionate and entirely lacking in sentimentality.”—Nancy Richler, author of *The Imposter Bride* “The notary in ‘Dirty Work’ has ‘retired from witnessing how rough human existence is.’ Fortunately for us, Cynthia Flood has not ... these stories prove her to be among our great North American fiction writers.”—Betsy Warland, author of *Breathing the Page: Reading the Act of Writing* “Raw energy is Cynthia Flood’s territory. This is a superb collection.”—Laurie Lewis, author of *Little Comrades* “Cynthia Flood is full of surprises. If there’s one thing that characterizes her elegant, crystal-sharp short stories, it’s that element of surprise ... they reward the attentive reader with surprise and delight”—Dave Margoshes, author of *A Book of Great Worth*

Macaroni Boy - Katherine Ayres 2004-07-13

During the Great Depression, a

boy who faces bullying stumbles upon a mystery and comes of age in this novel that integrates fact and opinion and has a rich 1930’s vocabulary. Extra material: An Author’s Note is included in the back of the book. Mike Costa has lived his whole life in The Strip, Pittsburgh’s warehouse and factory district. His father’s large Italian family runs a food wholesale business, and Mike is used to the sounds and smells of men working all night to unload the trains that feed the city. But it’s 1933, and the Depression is bringing tough times to everyone. Money problems only add to Mike’s worries about his beloved grandfather, who is getting forgetful and confused. Mike is being tormented at school by a loud-mouth named Andy Simms, who calls Mike “Macaroni Boy.” But when dead rats start appearing in the streets, that name changes to “Rat Boy.” Around the same time Mike notices that his grandfather is also physically sick. Can whatever is killing the rats be hurting Mike’s

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grandfather? It's a mystery Mike urgently needs to solve in this atmospheric, fast-paced story filled with vibrant period detail.

**The Secret Life of Rat Boy -**

Mark Wekander 2013-12

Michael Durbin spends his first nine years with Maron Halvorsen, an aging religious fanatic who has decided that he is retarded and that God wants her to isolate him from the world. They live with Johann, her husband who is in the final stages of Parkinson's. As Michael gets older, he escapes to the second-floor where Maron, crippled by arthritis, cannot reach him. In the dark filthy second floor of the house, behind windows

glazed by soot and dirt, he invents his own world, chants snatches of conversations he overhears, Bible verses, prayers. When Maron dies, he is discovered lying in a nest of old photographs, his face dirty and his hair wild. The press gives him the name of Rat Boy and he enters the County Farm with this nickname and receives many others. Here he learns about sex, friendship, betrayal and encounters religious fanaticism again. A parallel narrative records the attempt of Bernice Ylvesaker to write the life story of Michael Durbin as a favor to a fellow county home patient Joshua Brent, who has taken an interest in Michael.