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The Best American Magazine Writing 2016



Synopsis

This year's Best American Magazine Writing features outstanding writing on contentious issues including incarceration, policing, sexual assault, labor, technology, and environmental catastrophe. Selections include Paul Ford's ambitious "What Is Code?" (Bloomberg Businessweek), an innovative explanation of how programming works, and "The Really Big One," by Kathryn Schulz (The New Yorker), which exposes just how unprepared the Pacific Northwest is for a major earthquake. Joining them are Meaghan Winter's exposÃ© of crisis pregnancy centers (Cosmopolitan) and a chilling story of police prejudice that allowed a serial rapist to run free (the Marshall Project in partnership with ProPublica). Also included is Shane Smith's interview with Barack Obama about mass incarceration (Vice). Other selections demonstrate a range of long-form styles and topics across print and digital publications. The imprisoned hacker and activist Barrett Brown pens hilarious dispatches from behind bars, including a scathing review of Jonathan Franzen's fiction (The Intercept). "The New American Slavery" (Buzzfeed) documents the pervasive exploitation of guest workers, and Luke Mogelson explores the purgatorial fate of an undocumented man sent back to Honduras (New York Times Magazine). Joshua Hammer harrowingly portrays Sierra Leone's worst Ebola ward as even the staff succumb to the disease (Matter). And in "The Friend," Matthew Teague's wife is afflicted with cancer, his friend moves in, and the result is a devastating narrative of relationships and death (Esquire). The collection concludes with Jenny Zhang's "How It Feels," an unconventional meditation on the intersection of teenage cruelty and art (Poetry).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A real gift for readers.... If you can't read 'em all--and you can't--read this instead. (Sacramento News & Review)

The American Society of Magazine Editors is the principal organization for magazine journalists in the United States. ASME sponsors the National Magazine Awards in association with the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Sid Holt is chief executive of the American Society of Magazine Editors and a former editor at Rolling Stone and Adweek magazines. Roger Hodge is the national editor of The Intercept. He is the author of *The Mendacity of Hope: Presidential Power, Corporate Money, and the Politics of Corrupt Influence* (2010). Formerly he was editor of the Oxford American and Harper's Magazine. Hodge's writings have appeared in many publications, including Texas Monthly, the London Review of Books, Popular Science, Men's Journal, and Harper's. He is writing a book about life in the West Texas borderlands.

i buy this every year (actually several books from the "best american" series. Magazine writing keeps me somewhat up to date, and i like that

Not all the articles were my cup of tea. I did skip some (the one about coding had my head spinning). But the majority were well written, thought provoking, and made me curious to read more about the people and places involved. I was especially moved by "The Really Big One," by Kathryn Schulz (The New Yorker), about just how unprepared we are for a major earthquake. This one is a real eye opener and will make you seriously think about moving if you happen to live in the area. There are also political, legal, and tech articles and a pretty wide assortment overall. Most are award winners. A very eclectic mix. Net Galley ARC received for an honest review.

Some articles were not my cup of tea, but some of the articles stood out for me. One was the very uncomfortable story of Matthew Teague's wife succumbing to cancer - I could feel her pain and also the author's own darkness. All articles were eye-opening in their own way. You will come away wiser than before.
*Got a free copy in exchange for an honest review from NetGalley

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