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The Patron Saint of Lost Girls

Maureen Aitken

DESCRIPTION

Award-winning stories about growing up and finding resiliency amid uncertainty.

In 1970s and '80s Detroit, the city wrestles with an unending economic downturn, increasing violence, and white exodus to the suburbs. Amid all of this is twentysomething Mary who is just trying to grapple with her identity in a world filled with uncertainty.

In this collection of linked stories, we follow Mary as she seeks to cope with and withstand hardship and confront her fears of exploitation, abuse, and death. Along the way, she delves into the complex yet nurturing relationships with her family and friends who teach her to love better, live fuller, and question power. *The Patron Saint of Lost Girls* presents an unflinching tale of life in the late twentieth-century postindustrial Midwest.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Maureen Aitken is the author of *The Patron Saint of Lost Girls*, which was the recipient of the Nilsen Prize and a Foreword INDIES gold prize for general fiction and was ranked in the Kirkus Best Indie Books of 2019. Aitken's short stories have appeared in numerous publications—including *Intima*, *New Letters*, and *Penmen Review*—and were nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Aitken teaches writing at the University of Minnesota and previously taught at Hamline University.