

Filmmaker Tara Stillions Whitehead Releases a Prosaic-Script Hybrid with Feminist PNW Publisher, Unsolicited Press

THE YEAR OF THE MONSTER explores American culture as commodity and comorbidity.

PORTLAND, OREGON, USA, September 19, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "[The Year of the Monster](#)" explores American culture as commodity and comorbidity. From black holes and animal

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"The Year of the Monster" by Tara Stillions Whitehead is a must read! Stillions Whitehead writes with beautiful, razor-sharp language about the lingering darkness shadowed by the glitz of Hollywood."

Tommy Dean

extinctions to death row trauma porn and the redacted scripts of Hollywood abuses: these sixteen stories subvert traditional notions of justice, challenge vulnerable characters to survive in transgressive spaces. Mixing traditional prose with screenplay and script-hybrid, and certainly not without hope, *The Year of the Monster* encourages close examination of how American media and our complicity in its marriage of violence and culture perpetuate the human and environmental crises.

Praise for [Tara Stillions Whitehead](#)

"With a deftness and economy of language that calls to

mind Etgar Keret, and a tender veil of grit and glamor reminiscent of the late Eve Babitz, Tara Stillions Whitehead's "The Year of the Monster" is cinematic, and captivating. In sixteen stories, ranging from a jarring back-and-forth between movie execs, and an intimate, sultry portrayal of a community ripped apart and renewed by a tornado, Stillions Whitehead's writing demonstrates an unending capacity for humanity, the kind that is necessary right now. It has to be said: *The Year of the Monster* is officially required reading."

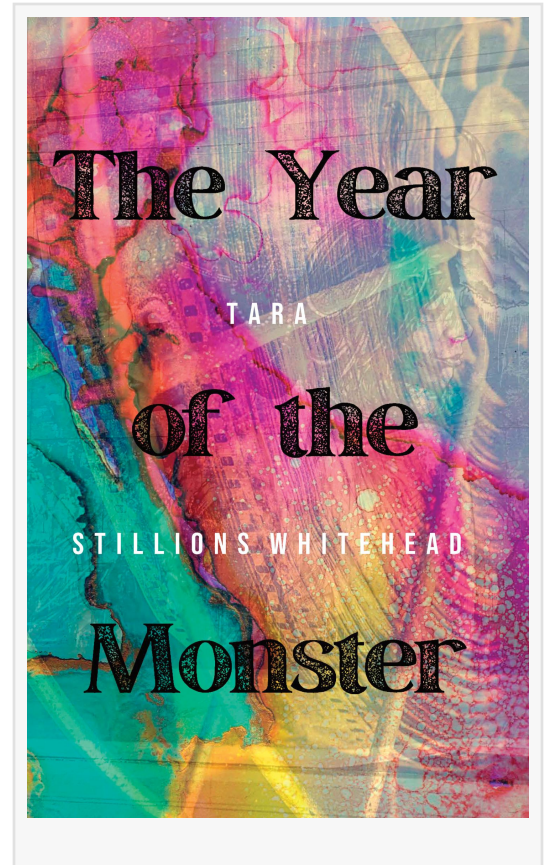
—Shannon Wolf, Green Card Girl

"The stories in "The Year of the Monster" are tender, truthful, fiery and finely wrought. Tara Stillions Whitehead has built a collection that leaves little doubt as to her range and mastery as a storyteller. This book could be studied at the level of language alone as her sentences are both elegant and exacting. The people who inhabit these stories have been through some things and there are no easy answers, but let this book serve as a short course in self-acceptance, grit, honesty, and survival. I'm in awe of Whitehead's intelligence and heart, fully on display in these

pages. I know she has many more books ahead of her. I can't wait to read every one of them."

—Kathy Fish, author of *Wild Life: Collected Works*

"Not all black holes are the size of suns or weigh as much as a galaxy" writes Tara Stillions Whitehead in the title story of her potent, hypnotic hybrid collection "The Year of the Monster," "Some are small, microscopic, atomic-sized holes." Freckle-sized black hole on the inner thigh, deleted scene, trauma, alienation, addiction, grief—such invisible centers of gravity litter the landscapes of these stories, drawing their narrators toward transgressions and obliterations, to which they are simultaneously attracted and repelled. But they, and we, are repelled even more forcefully by the casual brutality of Hollywood plotlines, American dreams, the casualties of apocalypse and empire. In language of glitter and grit, paralyzing twilights, and prismatic undertows, Stillions Whitehead resists resolution, expanding the narrative universe, defying both genre and gravity. What survives a black hole? The answer isn't an end but an action: just turn the page and surrender to the irresistible pull of the next utterly absorbing story."



—Erin Rodini, *And if the Woods Carry You*

About Tara Stillions Whitehead

Tara Stillions Whitehead is a filmmaker and multi-genre writer living in Central Pennsylvania. Graduate of University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television Production and San Diego State University's Creative Writing MFA Program, her writing and films work to subvert the toxic cultural narratives endorsed by popular media and the institutions that profit from stigmatizing and disadvantaging marginalized and historically oppressed groups. Her writing was included in the 2021 Wigleaf Top 50 and has been nominated for various awards, including Best of the Net, Best Small Fictions, AWP Intro Journal Awards, and the Pushcart Prize. A former DGA assistant director for television, she is currently Assistant Professor of Film, Video, and Digital Media Production at Messiah University, where she serves as production faculty for narrative filmmaking. Her hybrid chapbook/concept album, *Blood Histories*, was published by Galileo Press in 2021.

About [Unsolicited Press](#)

Unsolicited Press strives to produce exceptional works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from award-winning authors. Unsolicited Press based out of Portland, Oregon and focuses on the works of the unsung and underrepresented. As a womxn-owned, all-volunteer small publisher that doesn't worry about profits as much as championing exceptional literature, we have the

privilege of partnering with authors skirting the fringes of the lit world. We've worked with emerging and award-winning authors such as Shann Ray, Amy Shimshon-Santo, Brook Bhagat, Kris Amos, and John W. Bateman. Learn more at unsolicitedpress.com. Find us on twitter and Instagram, @unsolicitedp.

"The Year of the Monster" is available on September 27, 2022 as a paperback (202 p.; 978-1-956692-33-4) and e-book (all major retailers). Retailers, schools, and libraries can order copies through Ingram. The author is open to speaking with the media, holding readings, and engaging in other author opportunities.

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