

READING GUIDE

FROM THE COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES,
THE GAMES YOU CANNOT WIN

ESCAPING AVILA CHASE

A NOVELLA

M.K. WILLIAMS

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1

“Escaping Avila Chase” starts with two simple lines. “It was cold. Or rather, it was cool.” From the outset, Trevor is revising how he is telling his story to appeal to the reader. How does he continue to do this throughout the story?

2

The topics presented in “Escaping Avila Chase” present murky questions about domestic violence. What were your thoughts on the outcome? Did Trevor deserve a resolution? Did he deserve forgiveness? If not, what would be required for him to be absolved?

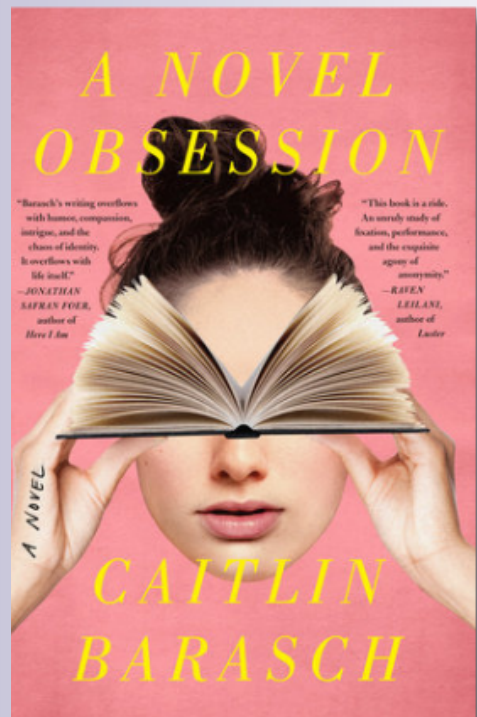
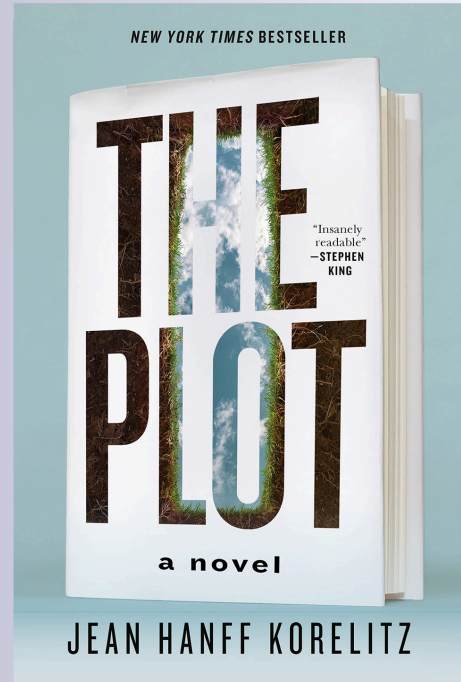
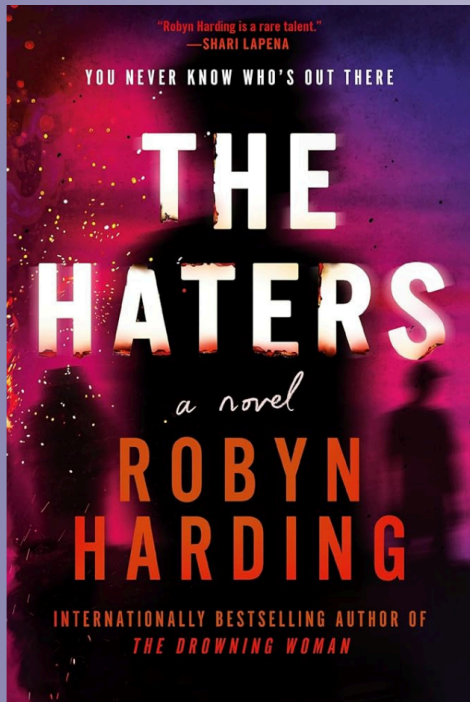
3

We only interact with Avila, the real Avila, very briefly in the story. How did she differ from the image of her that Trevor presented throughout the story?

4

In contemporary culture, men can relive their relationships through their work and it is called art. When a woman does this she is criticized and shamed for it. How does Avila's choice to omit Trevor from her works play a critical role in this story? What do you think her intentions were?

OTHER BOOKISH SUSPENSE



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