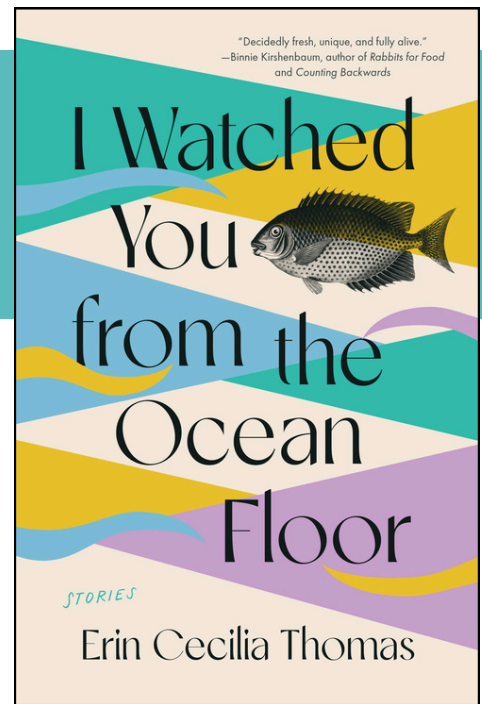


BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Frances and Sung-Jin in “A Rapture Coming” have such different reactions to losing their home? How do their reactions compare with Matilda’s response to her eviction in “The Row”?
2. In “So You May Sleep Again,” Alse receives various requests from potential customers. Why do you think she turns so many of them down?
3. What do you think happens to Abby and Lima Bean in “The Shed”? Do you think they make it to Jessie’s house? Is her mother with them?
4. Lindsey in “Juniper,” Katy in “Fake Bodies,” and the protagonist in “A Tilt Before The Sea” feel guilty for how their decisions have impacted their families and friends. How do they process their guilt?
5. In the title story, Leigh describes feeling helpless “as though I dropped something into the ocean and had to stand there on the rocking boat and watch it sink slowly to the bottom.” Why do you think the author named the story, “I Watched You from the Ocean Floor”? How does this phrase apply to the other stories in the collection?
6. In “Washington Avenue,” Carina and Elena experienced moments of change, loss, and connection during the outbreak of the pandemic. How do these experiences compare to your own during the COVID-19 pandemic?
7. May considers the differences between her apartment in East Orange, New Jersey, her sister’s house in Maplewood, New Jersey, and their childhood home in the story “I May.” What makes a place feel like home for you?
8. What do you think happened to Desmond in “The Hall of Life” after he blinked?
9. Many of the stories are set in different geographical locations: along the California coast, on Tennessee farmland, in the New Jersey suburbs. How does the author describe each of these places? What does the sense of place add to each story?
10. How does water imagery appear across the collection?
11. Why do you think there are so many different ways to experience grief and loss? Did reading this collection change your understanding of these feelings?



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Justin Wohler

ERIN CECILIA THOMAS

Erin Cecilia Thomas is from Buffalo, New York. She graduated from Berklee College of Music and went on to receive her MFA from Lesley University. Her work has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Arts & Letters*, and *Redivider Journal*, among many others. In 2021, she was the recipient of the Beacon Street Prize in Fiction. She has lived in Boston, Brooklyn, and New Jersey, and she currently resides in Nashville with her husband and their dog.

Email: erinceciliathomas@gmail.com
Website: www.erinceciliathomas.com
Instagram: [@erinceciliathomas](https://www.instagram.com/erinceciliathomas)

Kathryn Fay, publisher
kathryn.fay@modernartistpress.com
www.modernartistpress.com
IG: [@modernartistpress](https://www.instagram.com/modernartistpress)

