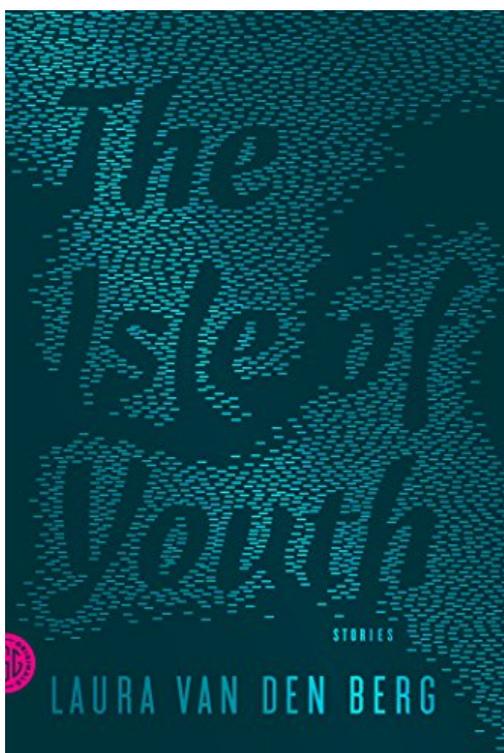


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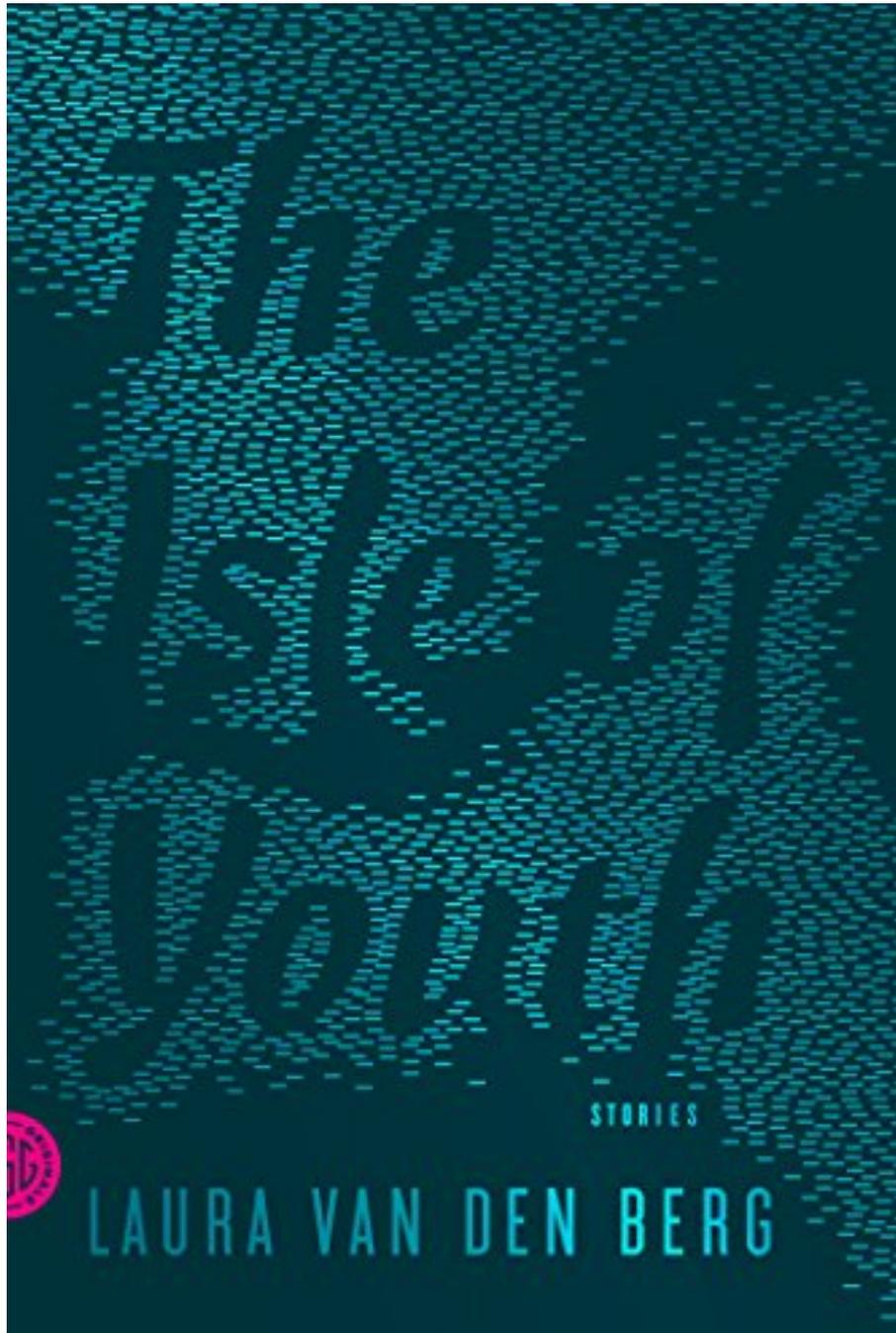
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## Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, November 2013: In her second short story collection, *The Isle of Youth*, Laura van den Berg plays frequently with readers' expectations. She surprises and delights with her gift for language and tone. If there's a cohesive bond between these seven stories, it's the women who inhabit them, all of whom are in search of something: luck, love, loved ones. Like all great short story collections, *Isle* is as much about interior landscapes as they are exterior ones. The centerpiece of the book is "Antarctica," about a woman who travels to the Antarctic Peninsula to recover the bones of her dead brother. It's in the frigid topography of the southernmost tip of the world that we discover a haunted secret, one that reveals a heartbreaking meditation on the weight of grief. --Kevin Nguyen

## From Booklist

In strange and overwhelming locales—swampy Florida, bleaker-than-bleak Antarctica, and a curious South American waterfall—van den Berg (*What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, 2009) explores the lonely, triumphant sorrow of love and family in this new collection. A mother-daughter magician duo isn't coming close to filling their Hollywood, Florida, shows, so teen Crystal charms wallets out of men at the bar afterward. A band of young cousins, robbing banks in an exultant escape from the "freedom" of their home-schooled, off-the-grid upbringing, attempts to float just above the law, while a couple of nonlicensed PI sisters grasp at their position questionably under it. In the squirming, electric title story, a woman impersonates her twin sister as a favor, with vertiginous results. Van den Berg sends her characters along the undulations of extraordinary familial relationships—navigating their understood strength and, at the same time, arbitrariness—and gathers their piercingly true, hauntingly single voices in this memorable collection. --Annie Bostrom

## Review

"Wonder and mystery are recurring motifs. The women here are one step ahead of disaster or one step behind it, and either way they are eager to discover what's next . . . Van den Berg, in this wonderful collection, never lets us turn away." ?Natalie Serber, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Confident, gripping stories . . . Ms. van den Berg spins complex plots around a sense of emotional emptiness. Her stories are bursting at the seams, while her characters are lonely to the core." ?John Williams, *The New York Times*

“The stories in Laura van den Berg's dreamy *The Isle of Youth* are absolutely captivating.” ?Vanity Fair

“*The Isle of Youth*, is a smart, fun, noir-y treasure map of where families hide their secrets and lost souls hide themselves. Van den Berg somehow packs a duffel bag of plot into carry-on-size stories. She also has the right kind of range: from brutal to moving to funny, South America to Paris to Antarctica, really great to freaking outstanding.” ?Kathryn Schulz, *New York Magazine*

“Darting, shifting things . . . though her stories find footing in dark matter, the reader ends up feeling something akin to having been freed by the end of the reading . . . [a] tremendous collection.” ?Weston Cutter, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“If you like Murakami's cool prose, that Raymond Chandler-esque aloofness in the face of strange events, have I got the book for you . . . [*The Isle of Youth*] is a small book, but it feels much bigger. I could have kept reading for days.” ?Rosecrans Baldwin, *NPR's All Things Considered*

“Curiosity--sprung from idleness, neglect, or betrayal--is a force to be reckoned with in these delicately layered narratives linked by themes of mystery and survival . . . Van den Berg gracefully captures such unseen moments of triumph and failure as lives are derailed--and discovered--in her stories.” ?ELLE Magazine

“If you like your female protagonists quirky, questing, and quixotic, you will adore this story collection and the author's ability to bore into her characters' innermost thoughts, piercing straight through to their red-hot centers.” ?O, *The Oprah Magazine*

“van den Berg's sophomore collection of mysterious stories follows likeable ladies with dangerous behavior.” ?Marie Claire

“Amusing and absorbing...” ?Glamour

“With her latest collection of seven stories, *The Isle of Youth*, Laura van den Berg gives readers a great place to maroon themselves...even though much remains unresolved, van den Berg's stories are still revelatory.” ?The Cleveland Plain Dealer

“...takes wry pleasure in reversing expected gender roles...Ms. van den Berg is perceptive about the ways that her characters--many of them demoralized wives--feel trapped within their identities and grasp at unwise escapes.” ?Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

“A master of the short story creates seven elaborate worlds with beautiful and haunting characters at a time when it feels like most short story collections are pretty thinly plotted.” ?Esquire

“The small, genuine and insightful moments at the heart of each tale mark the progress of a distinguished young writer.” ?Time Out New York

“Van den Berg excels at complexity, eccentricity, maximalism of plot . . . Her emphases on elaborate plot and intentional loose ends are a refreshing departure from the contemporary taste for tidy, minimal plot paired with maximal voices.” ?The New Inquiry

“You know how we're always going on about how this is a really good time for fans of short stories? Laura van den Berg is one of the best examples of why that is totally true, and this new collection on FSG should be all the proof you need. She is at the head of the pack when it comes to young writers that are more comfortable with the shorter form.” ?Jason Diamond, *Flavorwire*

“A sturdy short story collection works like a good album: strong piece by piece, but also on the whole. ”I

Looked for You, I Called Your Name" is as strong an opener as I've ever seen in a book of short stories, and it sets the tone and pace for the rest of Laura van den Berg's second work, *The Isle of Youth*." ?Grantland

"If ever there was a writer going places, it's Laura van den Berg, who follows up her debut collection, *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, with the ambitious, modular *The Isle of Youth*, whose seven stories are arranged along the themes of family secrets with noirish intrigue." ?Publisher's Weekly (starred review)

"A mesmerizing collection of stories about the secrets that keep us." ?Kirkus

"In *The Isle of Youth*, a group of young women narrators seek to understand the people in their lives as a means of understanding themselves. Magically, Laura van den Berg turns a group of lost souls into a beautiful and compelling read." ?Ann Patchett, author of *State of Wonder* and *Bel Canto*

"Laura van den Berg is one of the most freakishly talented young writers at work today, and a master of the short story form. Hers are deliciously unnerving, moving, and monstrous tales." ?Karen Russell, author of *Vampires in the Lemon Grove* and *Swamplandia!*

"I've never met Laura, but it seems like we would come across a new story by her every month or so during our reading for Best American Nonrequired Reading. They were uniformly excellent--emotionally complex, very raw--but always with a mixture of pathos and humour that made me think of Lorrie Moore." ?Dave Eggers, *Huck* magazine

"*The Isle of Youth* is simply astonishing. Each story is more surprising, more urgent, more savagely frank than the last. This is an awe-inspiring and necessary collection from one of the most sure-footed writers of our time." ?Claire Vaye Watkins, author of *Battleborn*

"This collection is rich, surprising, and a lot of fun. *The Isle of Youth* plays with crime stories of a kind, noir tales of deceit and betrayal, but really each investigates the spaces, the distances, that keep human beings from ever truly knowing one another. Van den Berg is a ridiculously talented writer, and this wonderful book provides the proof." ?Victor LaValle, author of *The Devil in Silver*

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The The Isle Of Youth: Stories By Laura Van Den Berg is guide that we now recommend. This is not type of huge publication. However, this publication will assist you to reach the big idea. When you concern read this book, you can get the soft data of it as well as save it in some numerous devices. Naturally, it will certainly depend on what tool that you own as well as do. For this situation, guide is advised to conserve in laptop, computer, or in the gizmo.

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