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Bless the Perverts Rabih Alameddine and Carlos Motta on secret histories

New Fiction and Essays Madeline Ffitch, Elisa Gabbert, Fenton Johnson, Sang Young Park

Ten Books Actor and writer Michaela Coel picks her desert island reads

25 Aphorisms

There is no beginning without disobedience.

To steer clear of the inevitable, but heads with the impossible.

Living is by far the most accurate form of self-description.

A stab is felt first by whoever grips the knife.

Ethics is an endless series of escapes from complicity.

Mastering a form means serving it badly.

Mere tolerance is an abstraction of hatred.

Servicing consumer debt is like trying cartwheels on a mudslide.

An act of vengeance is a snapshot of frustrated will.

Hitting bottom means discovering there is no bottom.

The rich are sometimes taxed; the poor are always looted.

Charity is a bridge engineered to collapse.

For an idea to survive, something must be done about it.

An opinion should not be held like a shotgun.

The security state sees every move you make, all the way down to shifts in your self-regard.

If you throw the wrong stones at the present, the future will bleed.

Teachers should be hackers, not programmers.

Standardized testing is a form of intellectual vivisection.

Rights protect us from others; others protect us from ourselves.

Many human decisions should be made while staring into non-human eyes.

Every worthwhile principle challenges some prohibition.

If you only hack away its branches, evil will yield even more fruit.

Others will not know your wounds unless you let them speak.

"Austerity" is a spell-word cast by financial wizards to make the poor believe that deficits are their fault.

Always kick up some dust before you leave.