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From: Progressive PR and Publicity on behalf of *Australian Book Review*

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Beejay Silcox – We are all MFAs now!

In 2014 Beejay Silcox moved to Virginia and joined the ‘largest system of literary patronage for living writers the world has ever seen’. As Trump slouched towards the White House, she read and wrote alongside the next generation of American storytellers in an MFA program – the degree writers love to hate. Four years later – searching to make sense of her brutally lonely American experience – she finds that the contradictions and tensions of the MFA are a mirror of the country that built it.

Beejay Silcox is the 2018 *ABR* Fortieth Birthday Fellow. Her article ‘We Are All MFAs Now: The Rise and Rise of American Creative Writing Degrees’ – is compelling reading – candid, thoughtful, and very funny.

Here are some extracts:

‘When I asked why we didn’t read beyond the continental border, a professor joked: “Well, this is America.”’

‘You could buy “Fuck Your MFA” tote bags in some of the scrappier New York City bookshops.’

‘When a Muslim student was admitted to the program, people wondered what she could possibly have to write about because she didn’t drink.’

***Australian Book Review* will publish ‘We Are All MFAs Now’ for free access online on 16 July 2018.**

[Beejay Silcox](#) is an Australian writer and literary critic. She is also the *ABR* Fortieth Birthday Fellow. This article is one of several to be published in 2018 as part of her Fellowship. Silcox recently completed her MFA in the United States, and is working on her first collection of short stories. Her short story ‘[Slut Trouble](#)’ was commended in the 2016 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize. **She is available for interview.**



Beejay Silcox

Further information

More information about *Australian Book Review* can be found on the [ABR website](#).

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