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

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Beejay Silcox on the rise of Misery Literature

How did we get here? How did trauma become our literary watchword? How did staring down (or at) suffering become synonymous with authorial heroism, and a cultural virtue? And what does it mean to read – to simultaneously consume and bear witness – in an era of beautiful (or beautified) pain? Many of these questions are unanswerable. They should still be asked. They should have been asked a decade ago.

Beejay Silcox examines the emergence of Misery Literature and asks how, ‘in the space of a decade, the narrative qualities for which misery literature was widely dismissed and ethically condemned have become the qualities critically lauded at the dark edge of mainstream literary fiction.’

Beejay Silcox is the 2018 *ABR* Fortieth Birthday Fellow. Her article ‘The Art of Pain: Writing in the Age of Trauma’ – is compelling reading – thoughtful, confronting, and insightful.

***Australian Book Review* will publish ‘The Art of Pain: Writing in the Age of Trauma’ in November**

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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