



Cake Time

A NOVEL-IN-STORIES BY

Siel Ju

Reckless risks make for big regrets. Take them anyway.

Discover Siel Ju's bold debut, winner of the 2015 Red Hen Press Fiction Award

Daring yet aimless, smart but slightly strange, *Cake Time's* young female protagonist keeps making slippery choices, sliding into the dangerous space where curiosity melds with fear and desires turn into dirty messes. In "How Not to Have an Abortion," the teenaged narrator looks for a ride from the clinic between her AP exams. In "Easy Target," the now-college-grad agrees to go to a swingers party with a handsome stranger. A decade later, in "Glow," she is suddenly confronted by the disturbing and thrilling fact of her lover's secret daughter. Ultimately, this unflinching novel-in-stories grapples with urgent, timeless questions: why intelligent girls make terrible choices, where to negotiate a private self in an increasingly public world, and how to love madly without losing a sense of self.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"*Cake Time* is a delicious indulgence. Treat yourself to its dark, seductive intimacies and savor the gritty sugar of its unsentimental humor."

—Jillian Lauren, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Some Girls: My Life in a Harem*, and *Everything You Ever Wanted*

"Siel Ju writes with refreshing candor about sexual appetite and the treacherous difficulty of finding love. There is cruelty in the search and tenderness and a lot of honest fumbling around. *Cake Time* is our time—a provocative debut."

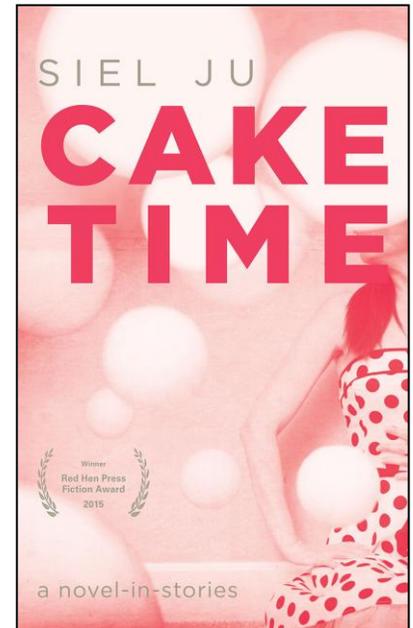
—Noy Holland, author of *BIRD*

"Siel Ju's *Cake Time* is sharply observed and wonderfully contemporary: these complex, flawed, and real characters live in our current world, with all its confusions and opportunity to connect—or disconnect. It's about the perils and pleasures of intimacy, and its heroine feels as alive as you and I. A compelling and unflinching debut."

—Edan Lepucki, author of *California*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Siel Ju is a writer in Los Angeles. She is the author of two poetry chapbooks: *Feelings Are Chemicals in Transit* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014), and *Might Club* (Horse Less Press, 2014). Her stories and poems appear in *ZYZZYVA*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, and other publications. She also edits *Flash Click*, a weekly email lit zine for fast fiction. Siel is the recipient of a residency from The Anderson Center at Tower View and holds a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. *Cake Time* is her first novel-in-stories.



PUB DATE: April 6, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-59709-031-5

SIZE: 5 in x 8 in

FORMAT: Tradepaper

EXTENT: 224pp

PRICE: \$15.95

BISAC: FICTION / Literary

MEDIA CONTACTS

Rebecca Baumann

Publicist, Red Hen Press

626-356-4760

publicity@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services

an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012

ips@ingramcontent.com

image.ingramcontent.com



MORE PRAISE FOR CAKE TIME

“Siel Ju’s *Cake Time* is an astonishing debut. Ju’s novel-in-stories is unsettling and fierce and full of loneliness, sadness, and humor. Her voice is so alive, and her candor—particularly about men and sex—is keenly astute, intimate, and startling. The prose is precise and poetic, and Los Angeles vibrates on the page. Wry and heartfelt and uniquely defiant, *Cake Time* is like a hard slap I didn’t expect or see coming.”

—Victoria Patterson, author of *The Little Brother* and *Drift*

“Siel Ju’s stories are not boring because they are about not-boring things, like swingers’ parties and organic fashion company beauty pageants and high school sex and breakups and hook ups. Lots and lots of breakups and hook ups. I worried for Siel Ju reading about all these breakups and hook ups. Then I reminded myself these are fictions Siel Ju is telling us, and Siel Ju is fine. We are all fine, even after all these breakups and hook ups.”

—Elizabeth Ellen, author of *Fast Machine* and *Bridget Fonda*

FROM CAKE TIME

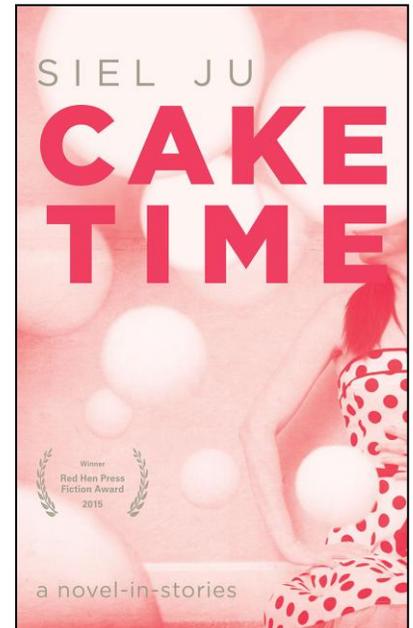
“How Not to Have an Abortion”

Each day, follow the regular schedule of classes. Marvel at how normal everything seems, how unchanged. The steady part of you, the part that memorizes ten SAT vocab words a night and recalculates the problems you got wrong on the physics test, has kicked in. There’s no room to panic. It’s just about following procedure: Get pregnancy test, make appointment, find ride, abort fetus.

On Wednesday morning, get what looks like your period, except a darker, almost brownish red and a thicker texture than usual. Be surprised. Put a pad on. After school, go to Monica’s. Her dad’s a gynecologist. Tell her the situation. “Oh no,” she says, but sounds a bit excited. She’s a virgin. She says you should call her dad at work. You’ve met him dozens of times, but she says she’ll tell him you’re “a friend” and he won’t know who you are. Agree to this, then take the phone.

Her dad’s voice is shaky, like he knows he’s doing something wrong, giving you advice over the phone. He says maybe you’re miscarrying, maybe you’re not. There are these things called false miscarriages, like false labors, he explains. Hang up and call Planned Parenthood for a second opinion. The Santa Monica office says call an ambulance immediately. The downtown office says wait it out—it’s probably nothing.

Wait it out.



PUB DATE: April 6, 2017

ISBN: 978-1-59709-031-5

SIZE: 5 in x 8 in

FORMAT: Tradepaper

EXTENT: 224

PRICE: \$15.95

BISAC: FICTION / Literary

MEDIA CONTACTS

Rebecca Baumann

Publicist, Red Hen Press

626-356-4760

publicity@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services

an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012

ips@ingramcontent.com

ipage.ingramcontent.com