

KIRKUS

REVIEWS

TITLE INFORMATION

FIFTY SHADES OF FUNNY: HOOK-UPS, BREAK-UPS AND CRACK-UPS

Stanfa, D.C.

Ed. by Reinhardt, Susan and Delia Su, etc.

Pandora's Boxes (210 pp.)

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BOOK REVIEW

A collection of essays about the intricacies of life, love and sex.

Composed of short stories penned by bloggers and comedy writers, and expertly edited by comedy writers Stanfa and Reinhardt, this collection takes readers on a hilarious journey through the trials and tribulations of sex and intimacy. In “Spirited Engagements,” the nightly noises of a young couple in love at an inn are presumed to be the paranormal racket of a resident ghost; in “The Thing at the End of a Sentence,” a young woman visiting the Ukraine receives a painfully public, embarrassing gift of tampons. The stories tend to dig into those most intimate moments while sharing tales of humility and humor. In particular, Lisa Brower’s story about trying to please her military husband upon his return home from duty offers some knee-slapping, laugh-out-loud comedy. Per her husband’s fantasy, she decides to surprise him by donning a rubber outfit, which goes terribly wrong: She “was starting to resemble a breaded cutlet, and the powerful rubber stench of the dress was making me dizzy.” Though authored by different writers—the majority of whom are female—the stories are seamlessly woven together and flow smoothly in tone from one essay to the next, which should appeal to anyone who’s traversed the world of dating and relationships. Despite some of the outlandish premises, most of the dexterously crafted stories are highly relatable and will resonate with readers of all backgrounds.

Sure to induce chuckles for adult readers looking for a good laugh.