



Short Takes: 24 Spring Memoirs

**By Tania Barnes, Elizabeth Brinkley, Lauren Gilbert & Lynne Maxwell --
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The memoir genre rolls on with this batch of 24 from Team Memoir, who are joined by Tania Barnes, Bette-Lee Fox, and Anna Katterjohn. Standard (and some would argue, tired) themes like family dysfunction persist, but we get enticing twists from a Vanderbilt heir (Wendy Burden's *Dead End Gene Pool*). Also, two firsts that this editor is aware of: a memoir of assisted suicide, sure to hit a nerve with baby boomer caregivers, and of nonbiological lesbian motherhood.—Heather McCormack

Gurwitch, Annabelle & Jeff Kahn. **You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up: A Love Story.** Crown. Feb. 2010. c.272p. ISBN 978-0-307-46377-7. \$27. MEMOIR

As one would expect in a work co-written by two comedy writers, this hilarious relationship memoir told in alternating chapters by pragmatic, standoffish Gurwitch and her romantic, overeager suitor Kahn makes a mockery of traditional self-help relationship advice. The authors offer up their experience as a guide for other couples, though its usefulness as a relationship primer is questionable. However, true love really does trump all in this touching story, when what seems like a doomed relationship blossoms into a 13-year (and counting) marriage, withstanding even the stresses of raising a medically fragile child.—L.G.

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