

Not That Bad

Dispatches from Rape Culture

EDITED BY
Roxane Gay

HARPER  PERENNIAL

NEW YORK • LONDON • TORONTO • SYDNEY • NEW DELHI • AUCKLAND

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	ROXANE GAY	<i>ix</i>
Fragments	AUBREY HIRSCH	1
Slaughterhouse Island	JILL CHRISTMAN	15
& the Truth Is, I Have No Story	CLAIRE SCHWARTZ	33
The Luckiest MILF in Brooklyn	LYNN MELNICK	49
Spectator: My Family, My Rapist, and Mourning Online	BRANDON TAYLOR	59
The Sun	EMMA SMITH-STEVENSON	69
Sixty-Three Days	AJ MCKENNA	79
Only the Lonely	LISA MECHAM	89
What I Told Myself	VANESSA MÁRTIR	99
Stasis	ALLY SHEEDY	105
The Ways We Are Taught to Be a Girl	xTx	115
Floccinaucinihilipilification	SO MAYER	129
The Life Ruiner	NORA SALEM	143
All the Angry Women	LYZ LENZ	155

Good Girls	AMY JO BURNS	167
Utmost Resistance: Law and the Queer Woman or How I Sat in a Classroom and Listened to My Male Classmates Debate How to Define Force and Consent	V. L. SEEK	177
Bodies Against Borders	MICHELLE CHEN	189
Wiping the Stain Clean	GABRIELLE UNION	203
What We Didn't Say	LIZ ROSEMA	207
I Said Yes	ANTHONY FRAME	213
Knowing Better	SAMHITA MUKHOPADHYAY	229
Not That Loud: Quiet Encounters with Rape Culture	MIRIAM ZOILA PÉREZ	235
Why I Stopped	ZOË MEDEIROS	243
Picture Perfect	SHARISSE TRACEY	253
To Get Out from Under It	STACEY MAY FOWLES	273
Reaping What Rape Culture Sows: Live from the Killing Fields of Growing Up Female in America	ELISABETH FAIRFIELD STOKES	289
Invisible Light Waves	MEREDITH TALUSAN	301
Getting Home	NICOLE BOYCE	307
Why I Didn't Say No	ELISSA BASSIST	323
<i>Contributors</i>		341
<i>Acknowledgments</i>		349