

A superhero walks into a neighborhood bar; a ghostly movie star is chased through a cornfield; a pop music diva contemplates the dead pheasant at her feet; a coloring-book dinosaur plays with fire and a cubicle worker battles a ring of Nigerian email scammers. In these stories and many more, lowbrow culture meets highbrow literature to poignant, profound and often hilarious effect.

Here are twenty tales by some of the most celebrated authors in the United States, including Alice Elliot Dark, Robin Black, Lucy Corin, Anthony Doerr, Alan Heathcock, Caitlin Horrocks, Michael Martone and Lydia Millet. These award-winning writers and a dozen more of their contemporaries deliver a volume of stories that are raucous, heartfelt, intelligent and beautifully crafted. "Roadside Curiosities" marries literary fiction to American popular culture, giving us a new and powerful lens for examining modern life.

This anthology was born in a classroom at the University of Leipzig, the result of a course in literary publishing offered under the auspices of the Picador Guest Professorship for Literature at American Studies Leipzig.

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Edited by Shannon Cain

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