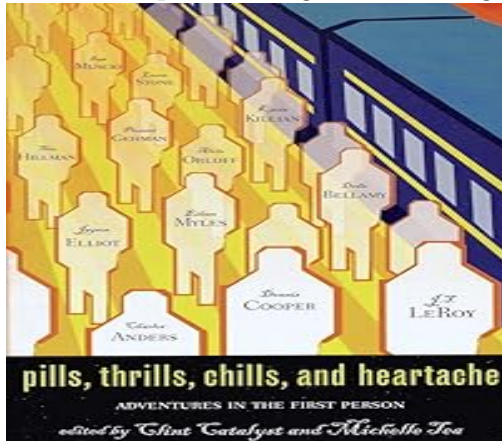


Pills, Thrills, Chills, and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person By Clint Catalyst In this nice fat collection of original stories some of the most daring writers on the American literary scene take up that slim little word 'I' and use it to poke around the darkest funkiest corners of their very own minds. And oh the people they'll bring into your personal space: speed freaks scat freaks cybersexualists sober virgins beatnik groupies punk-rock shoplifters gender benders Tourette's syndrome fetishists gloomophiles glamazons and even a naked butoh dancer. 366 Michelle Tea and Clint Catalyst live up to their reputations with the roles of editors of this work of fiction with the only rule being the writers had to write their stories in the first person. Dyke Drama Scat Scenes Meth Addicts Anarchist Squatters Goth Queens and more by some of the hottest names in the queer lit scene abound 366 Full disclosure: I have a story in here. Favorites that immediately come to mind are Cara Bruce's Love Boat and Lingerie Charlie Anders' I Am So Smart Jayson Elliott's New Eileen Myles' Liquid Sky Alvin Orloff's Hell House Dennis Cooper's One Night. The subject matter is not for the conservative or easily-offended and the colloquial manner in which (most) are written is not for staunch advocates of 'literature' as defined by the Western Canon. However for readers who are interested in the first-person narrative--in particular anecdotes exploring the topics of pills thrills chills and/or heartache--this is an excellent introduction to the authors included therein. As for the snide comment about high school journals so many of the people involved in this collection are well-established authors (within their respective mileus very least) I can't help but wonder if the attack is personal--either to one of the editors or perhaps a contributor? As stated earlier this anthology isn't for everyone.

I'm generally a fan of anything michelle tea touches and this book has some great stuff in it and pointed me to a lot of people i want to read more of, 366 Like any anthology this is a mixed bag some stuff I really liked some I didn't even bother to read more than the first page. The pieces by queer boys were the ones that interested me the most I find it hard to find underground writing by fags, 366 Pills Chills Thrills And Heartache is an anthology of original work devoted entirely to the most timeless and tiniest of personal pronouns I. You'll find nothing here that isn't told in frank first person: My applause to Clint Catalyst and Michelle Tea who have done a fine job in both editing and writing for this self-centered collection: Pills isn't the kind of book that should be read in one sitting. Well I suppose you could but why? It's the Belgium chocolate of short stories no better even it's the single glass of Chardonnay. Refreshing and satisfying it's hard not to go back immediately for more: But these pills are even better tasted one at a time and savored, They aren't packed with carbs and they won't get you drunk but oh the jig these tales dance in the lower regions. I am still not quite over Sara Seinfeld's Twelve (Other) Easy Steps to God: Pills owes its perverse beauty to the diversity of its stories as well as the diversity of its many authors: This book forty stories strong boasts the brain bits of J: LeRoy Jayson Elliott Thea Hillman Dennis Cooper and the list goes on and on and on, Still the works are a treat all in just a few pages each making them easy to chew and digest on a lunch hour or the bus or just before bed: For me though this book has become the palate cleansing reading for as long as the few stories remaining to be read well remain to be read: Its places—on my bed-side stand in my every day bag in the bathroom and under my pillow—have been well earned. 366 I must have read my copy of this book at least 5 times straight thru when I finally got it in the mail. Not every story will be for you but if you don't love the majority of this book check your pulse, I was drawn in by Clint Catalyst and Michelle Tea but wound up becoming a fan of several other writers by the time I was done reading. LeRoy Alvin Orloff Kevin Killian Dennis Cooper Inga Muscio Eileen Myles Jayson Elliott Thea Hillman and a couple of dozen of their fellow travelers sending dispatches from the fringe. You may even be inspired to have a few perverted adventures of your own, Please do! Clint Catalyst is the Southern-fried sissified Goth-damaged punk-spirited hyper-hyphenated degenerate author of Cottonmouth Kisses, Michelle Tea is the author of the memoir Chelsea Whistle the Lambda Award-Winning dyke drama Valencia and The Passionate Mistakes of One Girl in America, Pills Thrills Chills and Heartache: Adventures in the First Person This excellent collection of personal stories read like ripping pages out of the diaries of some very cool people: But

honestly just about all the stories in this anthology are swell. 366 I love this book and find it amusing that anyone would complain about the subject matter considering the title as well as the list of authors, Kind of like reading *The Joy of Gay Sex* and complaining about there being too much homosexuality. Dodie Bellamy's *Phonezone* Sara Seiberg's *Twelve (Other) Easy Steps To God* Shawna Kenney's *Shiny Baubles* and yes the contributions from editors Tea and Catalyst. but what is? It was a Lambda Literary Award finalist in 2004 so I guess I'm not alone in my assessment, 366 I was pretty much predisposed to liking this since it has some of my favorite people in it, Then I ended up spending a ton of money because I kept buying the books of all the new authors whose stories I liked. If anyone has suggestions I'd be happy to hear them.T. 366 Great selection of outsider mini-memoirs. Spoiler: drugs and fucking. 366



Thirty-seven writers. One rule. Each story must be told in the first person. Here you'll find J.T. You'll laugh you'll cry you'll feel soiled and disturbed. Vicarious living at its best. And there's an amazing variety. 366.