

Get Real

This month, these women tackle the big issues—family, sex, belonging—by sharing their jaw-dropping personal stories.

An Abbreviated Life

Ariel Levy

AN ABBREVIATED LIFE

by Ariel Levy

The renowned journalist turns her critical eye on herself, unpacking her chaotic childhood spent hopping between NYC and southeast Asia and coming to grips with her mother's erratic behavior.



SEX OBJECT

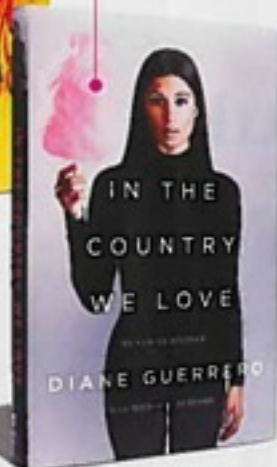
by Jessica Valenti

Sex, drugs, bad boyfriends...and finally speaking up. This essay collection from the founder of Feministing.com will make you rethink the challenges young women face today.

IN THE COUNTRY WE LOVE

by Diane Guerrero

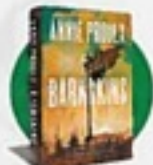
You've seen her in *OTYMB* and *Jane the Virgin*, but her own story of being torn from her parents at 14, when they were deported to their native Colombia, speaks volumes about immigration laws in the U.S.



IN THE COUNTRY WE LOVE

DIANE GUERRERO

WILDIN' OUT



THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING author Annie Proulx brought us lit hits *Brokeback Mountain* and *The Shipping News*. Now, she's back with *Barkskins*, an epic novel that follows two penniless Frenchmen as they arrive in North America in the 1600s and begin a tenuous relationship with the land, one that's passed along to their descendants. (Think *The Revenant*, except Leo has a sexy French accent.)

FROM PAGE TO SCREEN



ME BEFORE YOU

by Jojo Moyes

GoT's Emilia Clarke is bubbly caretaker Louisa, and *The Hunger Games*' Sam Claflin is quadriplegic (and perma-pessimist) in the adaptation of Moyes' best seller. Warning: Hit up the drugstore and buy all the tissues before viewing.



Hi!
I'M ANGELA LEDGERWOOD, COSMO'S BOOKS EDITOR. CATCH ME TALKING BOOKS HERE EACH MONTH AND ON THE LIT UP SHOW PODCAST EACH WEEK (FIND IT ON ITUNES AND @LITUPSHOW).



Q&A WITH ALAIN DE BOTTON, AUTHOR OF

THE COURSE OF LOVE

We asked the powerhouse philosopher (his 15 books include *How to Think More About Sex*) for his tips on mastering a modern relationship.

DO WE NEED LOVE TO LIVE OUR LIVES FULLY?

"For sure! But luckily, love can come from many different sources...of course partners but also friends, children, and even art and religion."

DO DATING APPS HELP OR HURT US IN THE SEARCH FOR LOVE?

"They can inflame the often unhelpful thought that there could be someone out there who's perfect for us. It sounds harsh, but there can't be."

HOW DO YOU KEEP LOVE ALIVE?

"Realize that you have the choice to leave, and so do they. You're ultimately in it because it's more enjoyable than any alternative."

Listen to de Botton June 23 on the Lit Up Show