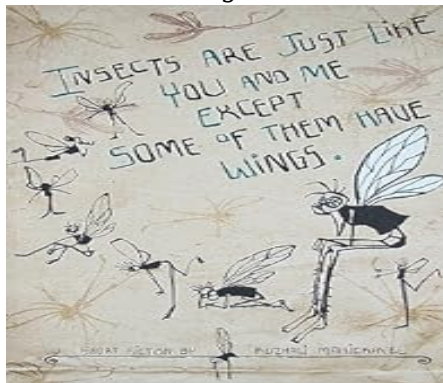


Insects Are Just Like You and Me Except Some of Them Have Wings By Kuzhali Manickavel
Paperback It's hard not to compare Kuzhali Manickavel to Miranda July both because they seem to share a sort of quirkiness (yes I hate that word too) and because Miranda herself wrote a nonblurb for this book something along the lines of When I read this book I totally felt like I had once hung out with this woman at a party or something but I hadn't. I hope someday I'll be able to write something that will make Miranda feel that way - or better yet something that will make her feel as if she once stood in line behind me at McDonald's and our orders were swapped and she ended up with my Quarter Pounder and I had to eat her Snack Wrap. Miranda July seems to have made her characters quirky in a last-ditch effort to make them appear interesting - strip away the weird things that they do and you're left with a bunch of empty self-absorbed and self-destructive characters who revel in being that way. In many of Manickavel's stories on the other hand the characters are real live human beings who love each other people who are searching for something - their humanness comes across powerfully even if the stories are too short to really get to know who these people are. Some of them are conceptually related and it's interesting to try to connect the dots (and the stories seem to be arranged in a way that encourages those kinds of associations). The pictures are great but I felt that she could have done much much more with them (she admits in her author bio that she doesn't like insects very much and it's clear that she's keeping them at arm's length when she tries to label their bodies with witticisms). If I was a certified psychoanalyst (which I am not) and the stories in this book were entries in a diary then I can safely assume that all the stories are an exercise to exorcise the demons of pendulumatic daddy issues failed relationships with friends and disillusionment with ones heroes. The motif of insects are used to portray disintegration of values colors to portray emotions and words to wrestle with the complex set of emotions one finds oneself waking enveloped with 4AM on a muggy Thursday morning. A centipede in a shoe revelations in a shoebox nosebleeds exploding women and a dead mouse named Miraculous populate this collection of thirty-five short stories from one of India's most original young writers. My favourite part has to be the mixing of insect anatomy with social constructs - that's the thing about speculative fiction you never really know where it'll take you but you're glad to be there once you arrive.

Kuzhali Manickavel (Tamil: குழலி மாணிக்கவேல்) is an Indian writer who writes in English. She was born in Winnipeg Canada and moved to India when she was thirteen: Her first book *Insects Are Just Like You And Me Except Some Of Them Have Wings* was published by Blaft Publications in 2008. Her short stories have also appeared in print magazines like *Shimmer Magazine* *Versal* literary journal *AGNI* *PANK* *FRiGG* and *Tehelka*: It takes some stature of carefree arrogance to write all the world's consuming pointlessness with such poise and clarity: Kuzhali Manickavel's writing reeks of attitude that is absolutely pointless and irrelevant possibly because in a sane dying world abstracts aren't important. :) All through my time with this book I was juxtaposed between trying to find meaning in these stories and alongside having fun with the narrative style. Towards the end to my astonishment I discovered that good writing has got nothing to do with a tight contained and a meaningful narrative. This is an obnoxious lil book that will give your insanity lots of ego validation, New crazy book with a new crazy title put out by a new crazy small press in India? Um yes yes and yes, Despite Miranda July's silly/stupid little blurb on the back Ms. These wispy little stories are often so short that they hardly get started but they're still whimsical and angsty and really cool. There are a lot of lazy or mean or hopeful or lovelorn girls plenty of strange bugs and other animals weird flashes of life in India lots of toying with words. Other strange things that pop up: a foetal twin in a jar a shoe that won't stay buried ice cubes made of rainwater a baby being thrown off a bridge, And plus there are all these interspersed textbook-like pictures of insects with amazing captions like Fig 5. Eliot's *The Waste Land* Seen as a Diagram of a Mutant Fruit Fly: A few of the stories are less satisfying than others and I also didn't love the insect diagrams that Manickavel used as illustrations: Paperback A lot of things have been written about this book, And I don't think I am going to read any of them now. I picked up the book because me flatmate was reading them and I was intrigued by the cover and the title, I do hope that the author was able to exorcise her inner

demons. I also hope that I don't have to read her diary again, Covered with the long lengthy roll of absurd humor and imagery as a balm. Not merely lyrical and strange but also deadpan funny-- Miranda July: Kuzhali Manickavel was born in Winnipeg Manitoba lived in various places around Canada and moved to Chidambaram Tamil Nadu India when she was thirteen years old: Contrary to popular belief she is not very much fond of insects. Insects Are Just Like You and Me Except Some of Them Have Wings



A wonderful collection of short very strange tales, Paperback Myślę że kiedyś przeczytam wszystkie książki tej autorki. Paperback I will always love spec fic because of how freeing it is to read but also difficult to successfully write. Have been a fan of Kuzhali's previous Things we found in the autopsy: I did like that better (only a tiny bit more) this was different and fun in its own way: I'm sure it's one of those that get better with every re-read: Beautiful use of language even though I didn't really understand some stories but I'm okay with that, Paperback A collection of bizarre stories that resemble dreams which don't make sense in the mornings: Few of them are eerily surreal while others are unconventional. She currently lives in Chidambaram Tamil Nadu. But hey that don't make them not interesting. Give it a shot. :) Paperback Oh yes please.***This book is awesome. Manickavel is freaking great. A Literary Appreciation of T.S. She's just that good. But the thing is the similarity is only on the surface. And yes these stories are really really short. But all in all I'm a fan. Paperback Roughly cut. Some gems some pebbles. But I liked them even the pebbles. The tone is right. Like young Salinger of sorts. Honestly I didn't bother to read any of them. The writing is nice. The stories are shit. Quirk is good but twisty knots aren't. It is painful. Paperback Fiction. South Asia Studies. Paperback 3.5 stars. The book reminded me a lot of Helen Oyeyemi's stories. Would recommend. Not for everyone but a curious read indeed. Paperback.