



# Now We Will Be Happy (Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction)

*Amina Gautier*

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## **Now We Will Be Happy (Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction)** Amina Gautier

*Now We Will Be Happy* is a prize-winning collection of stories about Afro-Puerto Ricans, U.S.-mainland-born Puerto Ricans, and displaced native Puerto Ricans who are living between spaces while attempting to navigate the unique culture that defines their identity. Amina Gautier's characters deal with the difficulties of bicultural identities in a world that wants them to choose only one.

The characters in *Now We Will Be Happy* are as unpredictable as they are human. A teenage boy leaves home in search of the mother he hasn't seen since childhood; a granddaughter is sent across the ocean to broker peace between her relatives; a widow seeks to die by hurricane; a married woman takes a bathtub voyage with her lover; a proprietress who is the glue that binds her neighborhood cannot hold on to her own son; a displaced wife develops a strange addiction to candles.

Crossing boundaries of comfort, culture, language, race, and tradition in unexpected ways, these characters struggle valiantly and doggedly to reconcile their fantasies of happiness with the realities of their existence.

Winner of a National Silver IPPY Award

Winner of a Florida Authors and Publishers Association Award

Winner of a USA Best Book Award

Longlisted for the Chautauqua Prize in Fiction

Shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize

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