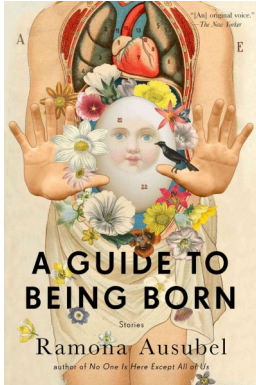


A Guide to Being Born : short stories

Parenthood, Birth, and Other Transformations



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In *A Guide to Being Born*, Ausubel's narrative voice is strong and unique. She takes chances in her fiction yet unlike some modern authors, she still includes distinct narrative threads. You can tell she is an independent-minded author just from the layout of her collection--four sections titled: Birth, Gestation, Conception, and Love. Notice the order of her subjects, the reverse of what you might expect.

I fell in love with the first story "Safe Passage." It begins this way, "The Grandmothers" dozens of them find themselves at sea. This boat full of older women find themselves adrift with hundreds of crates; they open them to see if any of the items will allow them to save themselves. The story is funny, whimsical, and fantastical all at once. Plus, it conceals a deeper level that you won't discover right away. The grandmothers find shipping containers full of yellow roses, and they fill their arms with them despite the fact that the thorns leave blood tracks on their hands. Another fantasy-rich story is "Chest of Drawers." Toward the end of the wife's pregnancy, her husband suddenly grows live drawers on his chest, a problem that necessitates many medical appointments and tests. Yet, the compartments come in handy for carrying things such as his wife's lipstick and a bunch of tiny diversity dolls. [Read more »](#)

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Posted by Dory L. on May 30, 2013 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

