

Call for writers: Shameless Magazine
PLAY issue

FEATURES For features below, please contact jboampong@shamelessmag.com. In your email, please provide a brief outline of what you intend to write about and include a few (i.e., two or three) examples to substantiate your ideas. Please note: All deadlines are flexible except for the final draft deadline.

Feature 1: The importance of radical imagination

Word count: 2000-2500

Final draft deadline: Thurs Mar 24

Description: For the last two years, we've seen the creative ways that people have come together to support one another and fight for causes they believe in. From mutual aid projects to book clubs and virtual art shows, communities are putting building power back into their own hands and sharing it far and wide.

This piece will explore what it means to dream and imagine new worlds and ideas as well as why that's especially important to do now. It will also feature examples and touch on different ways to practice imagining radically and creatively. The role art plays in that practice will also be explored.

Feature 2: Discovering play and joy as an adult

Word count: 2000-2500

Final draft deadline: Thurs Mar 24

Description: As children, we were taught that fun and joy stop once we become adults (because there's a time limit on silliness!). As adults, capitalism teaches us that we have to earn the opportunity to have fun and find joy by...working for it as opposed to simply having it. This piece will complicate the idea that fun and joy are earned and that some people deserve them more than others. But it will also explore ways that adults find their way back to joy and fun through a variety of methods like building in fun activities into a day, community care, revisiting childhood games and so much more.

FRONT OF BOOK

For pitches below, please email Sheila at sheila@shamelessmag.com

On the job

Word count 600-800 words

Final draft deadline: Fri Mar 11

Description: Profile a toy designer! What got them interested, and what does a typical day or week look like? How do they get to explore the concept of play by creating objects of play for others?

ARTS

For pitches below, please email Rayne Fisher-Quann at rfisherquann@shamelessmag.com

Arts Profile

800-1000 words

Final draft deadline: Fri Mar 11

Profile an artist or art collective (preferably in your community) who exemplifies making art playful and accessible. Think art collectives who include people of all ages, collaborative community art projects, muralists, arts/play therapists, community theatres, or anything else – be creative!

REVIEWS / For pitches below, please contact Cindy Ly at cly@shamelessmag.com

***Please note that due to ongoing supply-chain and shipping issues, some review copies will only be available in digital formats for review.**

Capsule Reviews

125 - 150 Words

Final Draft Deadline: Thurs Mar 10

Books | Fiction

***My Heart Fills With Happiness / Nijiikendam* written by Monique Gray Smith and illustrated by Julie Flett (Orca Books)**

[Link](#)

“The sun on your face. The smell of warm bannock baking in the oven. Holding the hand of someone you love. What fills your heart with happiness? This beautiful book, with illustrations from celebrated artist Julie Flett, serves as a reminder for little ones and adults alike to reflect on and cherish the moments in life that bring us joy. International speaker and award-winning author Monique Gray Smith wrote *My Heart Fills with Happiness* to support the wellness of Indigenous children and families, and to encourage young children to reflect on what makes them happy.”

***The Prairie Chicken Dance Tour* by Dawn Dumont (Freehand Books)**

[Link](#)

"The hilarious story of an unlikely group of Indigenous dancers who find themselves thrown together on a performance tour of Europe. The Prairie Chicken dance troupe is all set for a fifteen-day trek through Europe, performing at festivals and cultural events. But then the performers all come down with the flu. And John Greyeyes, a retired cowboy who hasn't danced in fifteen years, finds himself abruptly thrust into the position of leading a hastily-assembled group of replacement dancers. As the gang makes its way from one stop to another, absolutely nothing goes as planned and the tour becomes a string of madcap adventures. Dawn Dumont brings her signature razor-sharp wit and impeccable comedic timing to this hilarious, warm, and wildly entertaining novel."

Books | Non-Fiction

***Home is in the Body: 2SLGBTQIA+ FilipinX Femme, North of the 49th Parallel* edited by Jacqueline Gallos Aquines (ANAK Publishing)**

[Link](#)

HOME IS THE BODY "features portraits and interviews with over 40 radical, brilliant FilipinX Femme, mostly from Canada, some from the States, who identify as Trans Pinay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Aromantic, Gender Non-conforming and some as Allies of 2SLGBTQIA+. It also includes beautiful, moving articles, poetry, prose, & visual art from submissions addressing Community, Identity, Self, and Love."

*Preference for Filipinx reviewer. ***Only e-galley available for review**

Poetry

***My Grief, My Sun* by Sanna Wani (House of Anansi)**

[Link](#)

MY GRIEF, MY SUN is a vivid poetry collection. "Sharply political and frequently magical, these intimate poems reach for everything from the 1997 film *Princess Mononoke* to German Orientalist scholarship on early Islam. Every verse invokes ode and elegy. Love and grief sit side by side. The collection listens carefully to the world's breathing, addresses the endless and ineffable you, and promises enough joy and sorrow to keep growing."

***From the Shoreline* by Steffi Tad-y (Gordon Hill Press)**

[Link](#)

"FROM THE SHORELINE is a debut collection that brings forward diasporic experience as it intersects with mental illness. Family history and work lyrics occur against a tonal backdrop of the carceral. Yet Tad-y brings a tenderness to these fraught circumstances, finding beauty in detail and repetitive acts of love, in part due to the use of a multiplicity of forms that render a surplus of effect into beautiful images."

Graphic Novels

***Kasama* by Allan Matudio (ANAK Publishing)**

[Link](#)

KASAM is a debut graphic novel from Filipino Canadian author Allan Matudio. Set in the fictional city of Orkidias in the Philippines, the novel follows Kia and Allison as they arrive in the city. They will become unlikely allies who are unaware that they will soon face one of the re-emergence of one of the most notorious creatures to have ever oppressed the

islands. The novel's title comes from the Tagalog word for companion or allyship and draws upon the author's own experience of being a tourist in his homeland. ***Only e-galley available for review**

Rabbit Chase written by Elizabeth LaPensée, illustrated by KC Oster and translated by Aarin Dokum (Annick Press)

[Link](#)

In RABBIT CHASE, “Anishinaabe culture and storytelling meet *Alice in Wonderland* in this coming-of-age graphic novel that explores Indigenous and gender issues through a fresh yet familiar looking glass. Aimée, a non-binary Anishinaabe middle-schooler, is on a class trip to offer gifts to Paayehnsag, the water spirits known to protect the land. While stories are told about the water spirits and the threat of the land being taken over for development, Aimée zones out, distracting themselves from the bullying and isolation they've experienced since expressing their non-binary identity. When Aimée accidentally wanders off, they are transported to an alternate dimension populated by traditional Anishinaabe figures. In order to get back home, they must work with a Trickster to hunt down dark water spirits.”

Audio

**Unloved
Hunnah**

[Link](#)

UNLOVED is the EP from Ethiopian Canadian singer Hunnah. “The album captures the perils of dating, the politics of desirability as a woman of colour, and the highs and lows of romance. The smooth R&B tracks on the album are buoyed by Hunnah's lush velvet vocals, and the alluring harmonies strike the perfect balance between old school R&B and current neo-soul.”

**Black, No Sugar
Amber-Simone**

[Link](#)

BLACK, NO SUGAR is the EP from British singer, multi-instrumentalist and producer Amber-Simone. The EP showcases her rich, soulful voice, and is a stunning blend of neo-soul, gospel and modern R&B. Amber-Simone explores her period of self-growth on this EP, and calls it “my proudest, most honest work, exploring themes like race and identity, love and the general growing pains of change.... a real labour of love and a true example of how music thrives best in collaboration, featuring many amazing friends who've made this project possible as I took my first leap into production.”

**Piece of Me
Lady Wray**

[Link](#)

PIECE OF ME is the sophomore album from Virginia-born singer/songwriter Nicole Wray. With a Jackson-5-family-member flair, a range like Aretha's, and a gospel upbringing, Lady Wray brings a healing texture to all of her music. In this album, her voice is so much more powerful and raw, taking on the good, the bad, the difficult, and the joyful on her most personal collection of songs to date.

**Dirty Saint
Often**

[Link](#)

DIRTY SAINT is the debut album from the singer and songwriter known as Often. Full of otherworldly tracks, this album fuses soft, minimal beats and even softer vocals. The album was created during the turbulent moments of quarantine-induced introspection on life and friendship.

Towards The End

Katie Tupper

[Link](#)

TOWARDS THE END is the upcoming EP from Canadian musician Katie Tupper. The EP is an ode to her upbringing in Saskatchewan — ushering in memories of her childhood in Saskatoon, grain silos and grasslands of the wide, open spaces of the plains, and the yearning for hometown normalcy. *Towards the End* blends alternative R&B, indie and neo-soul.

*** Please note that the album does not drop till February 18, 2022.**

Visual

Uprooted: The Plantemic

Betty Xie

[Link](#)

UPROOTED: THE PLANTEMIC is animated five-episode short series from Betty Xie, that follows the daily challenges and triumphs of five houseplants confirmed with their human at home during the pandemic lockdown, as they adapt to a new way of living. This fun and fresh original series boast an all-Asian cast led by Andrea Bang of *Kim's Convenience*.