

Call for writers: Transitions Issue

FRONT OF BOOK

To submit for any FOB piece, please contact Soraya Gallant at sgallant@shamelessmag.com. In your email, please provide a brief outline of what you intend to write, and how you would like to treat the prompt. It is also helpful to indicate whether you have written for Shameless before, and provide an outline (a description of the piece you hope to write) especially if your idea deviates from the prompt (which it totally can!)

5 Things/5 Ways

Word count: 500-600 words

First draft deadline: September 5th

Final draft deadline: October 2nd

Description: Transition is an inevitable part of life, and like most things comprises the good, the bad, the joyful, and the uncomfortable—sometimes all at once. Think of 5 *ways* that transition has impacted your life: Is it the ways you have managed the inevitability of change and transition? Or enumerating what joys of growing older and better you never expected, and even how they contribute to the human experience?

Or, what are 5 *things* you had to learn in order to transition to a better place for yourself—how do these lessons carry you? What things are you happy to leave behind as you've grown, and why? Or submit your own list of either 5 things, or 5 ways and how they fit into our theme of transition(s).

On the Job

Word count: 600-650 words

First draft deadline: September 5th

Final draft deadline: October 2nd

Description: There are so many jobs in this world whose efforts centre on helping others achieve some kind of transition. Is there someone you know whose job helps others move from one place in their life to another? They could be a therapist or counsellor, a coach (of any skill/extracurricular), someone who works in your local community, with young people, with older people, with anyone! This is an opportunity to write a brief profile on this cool individual, highlight their work, and include info on how young people could follow a similar career path.

Activist Report

Word count: 500 words + 150-word sidebar

First draft deadline: September 5th

Final draft deadline: October 2nd

Description: Write a profile showcasing an activist individual, organization, or group—either from your local area, or just one you appreciate. In keeping with the theme of transition, we're particularly interested in the work of harm-reduction and the endeavours to shift perspectives and definitions of care, healing, and recovery.

They're Shameless

Word count: 650 words

First draft deadline: September 5th

Final draft deadline: October 2nd

Description: A profile of an under-20 youth, a compelling subject who is involved in their community, in organizing in some form, or who just has a lot to say about their niche work.

COLUMNS

For pitches below, please contact Nedda Sarshar nsarshar@shamelessmag.com.

Green Scene

Word count: 600-800 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

Description: Have you started a garden during the pandemic? Or been taking care of some plants while you had more time indoors? We want to hear about how taking care of plants has impacted your sense of home and care. Has taking care of plants taught you patience? Has their company helped you move through these difficult times? Plants are experts at living in transition, and there's a lot to learn from them.

Media Savvy

Word count: 600-800 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

Description: The children of immigrants are literal products of transition. Our parents crossed oceans and left loved ones to build new lives. But that didn't mean the old country was forgotten, or that a diaspora does not come full of rich culture and community. We'd love to hear from someone who grew up in an immigrant household about the media that you were raised on: be it your parent's favourite TV shows, or music in another language. Things that you might have hesitated to tell your Western friends about, but that you now recognize deepened your sense of identity and connection for your family.

Body Politics

Word count: 600-800 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

Description: The diet industry is coming after your post-pandemic body. As we transition back to “normal” after two years of living in a pandemic our bodies have been working hard to keep us moving through things. Do you have a different relationship with your body than you did going into the pandemic? Are you more accepting or considerate of it, even if it does not fit into oppressive beauty standards? Or, alternatively, are you struggling to get to that place?

Sporting Goods

Word count: 600-800 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

Description: When she was a recovering heroin addict and mourning her mother’s death and her own divorce, Cheryl Strayed trekked the Pacific Crest Trail and came out on the other side healed. A survivor of domestic violence, Emma Gatewood took to hiking in the woods and eventually became the first solo-female traveller to complete the Appalachian trail. These are just two examples of people who turned to walking when faced with terribly difficult transitions. Has there been a time in your life when you were faced with tragedy and a sport or an activity helped you move through it? We’d love to hear about that experience— how you got started, what it helped you learn, where you’re at now.

ARTS SECTION

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

Geek Chic/ When tech adapts with us

600-800 words

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

The whole world has been in a period of transition over the last few years, and for many of us, the role of tech in our lives has changed as well. Tell a story about a time in which a piece of tech helped you through a period of change -- whether it be WhatsApp helping you talk to family far away, Zoom connecting you to people through the pandemic, or social media bringing you your first friend in university. You can also talk about how your relationship to a kind of tech has changed throughout your life (e.g. going from using FaceTime every once in a while to using it as a vital tool for connection during quarantine).

Stir It Up / A Comfort Food

400-500 words + recipe

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

Food is a powerful source of connection, nostalgia, and comfort. For this piece, write about a time a specific dish has comforted you during a big change. This could look like finding a new favourite restaurant after a move to a new city, sharing a meal that made you feel safe, or figuring out how to make a grandmother's recipe just like she did to connect you to home -- the possibilities are endless!

DIY / Accepting Change

600-800 words

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

Tell a story of change or transition in your life, and walk us through the strategies you used to adapt to it. Try to find universal pieces of wisdom you've learned that could help the reader get through a transition of their own, and tell us how you figured it out.

Show and Tell / A Period of Transition

500-800 words + picture

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

Tell a story about a time in your life where you experienced an impactful change, big or small. This could be a gender transition, a transition from one country to another, a

move to a new city, a change in hair colour, the journey from middle school to high school -- no change is too big or too small. Include a relevant picture.

Get Up / Trendless mainstay

600-800 words

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

Write about a piece of clothing that's been with you since the beginning; one that resists the trend cycle to become a true staple piece. Write about what that piece of clothing means to you. Ideally, write a bit about the fast changeover of the trend cycle in general, and discuss the importance of building a well-loved and sustainable wardrobe (i.e. the slow fashion movement).

Arts Profile

800-1000 words

First draft deadline: September 6, 2022

Final draft deadline: October 5, 2022

Profile an artist or art collective (preferably in your community) whose work connects to a personal or cultural transition. This could be a poet who writes about their immigration experience, an artist who explores gender queerness, a writer who's inspired by their teenage years, the director of a coming of age documentary -- 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.

Please note: All deadlines are flexible except for the final draft deadline.

COUNTERCULTURE CLASSIC

Word Count: 500 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

TV Show: *Ugly Betty* (ABC Television)

Created by Silvia Horta

For this issue on transitions, we want to take a look at the television series UGLY BETTY. The show originally aired on television between 2006 and 2010 and was the breakout role for

America Ferrera as the title star, Betty Suarez. Based on the Colombian telenovela series *Yo so Betty, le fea*, the show featured a dynamic and diverse cast of characters, storylines, and relationships and featured important topics like immigration. The show centred on Betty Suarez, a young Mexican American woman in her 20s who lands a coveted position at a leading fashion magazine. Over the course of the series, we see Betty, her family, friends and co-workers transition through multiple phases of their lives, sometimes in small incremental ways and sometimes in life-changing ways. UGLY BETTY broke ground in many different ways, showing how transition, change, and development is part of life.

We'd love to see a piece that explores the period of transition that occurs for many in their late teens and early 20s, using the show and your own experiences to highlight the significance of that change during that period.

CAPSULE REVIEWS

Word Count: 125-150 words

First Draft Due Date: September 8, 2022

Final Draft Due Date: October 4, 2022

BOOKS | FICTION

***Junie* by Chelene Knight (Book*hug Press) - [Link](#)**

JUNIE is a riveting exploration of the complexity within mother-daughter relationships and the dynamic vitality of Vancouver's former Hogan's Alley neighbourhood. Set in the 1930s, Junie is a creative, observant child who moves to the alley with her mother, Maddie: a jazz singer with a growing alcohol dependency. As Junie finds adulthood, exploring her artistic talents and burgeoning sexuality, her mother sinks further into the bottle while the thriving neighbourhood—once gushing with potential—begins to change. As her world opens, Junie intuits the opposite for the community she loves.

Told through the fascinating lens of a bright woman in an oft-disquieting world, this book is intimate and urgent—not just an unflinching look at the destruction of a vibrant community, but a celebration of the Black lives within.

***All I Stole From You* by Ava Bellows (HarperCollins Canada) - [Link](#)**

Maggie Hoyt is a quick-witted, house-sitting LA actress who's dated one too many DJs for her liking. An incorrigible insomniac, she desperately needs more than four hours of sleep, according to her therapist. One night, while still grieving the death of her ex-boyfriend, Maggie reluctantly attends her friend's boat party. There she meets Rob, a charming British tattoo artist who makes her feel like her best self for the first time in a while. Their attraction to each other is instantaneous and electrifying. There's just one glaring problem: he's wearing a wedding ring.

With humour and heart, *ALL I STOLE FROM YOU* is a fresh portrait of the pivotal relationships in our lives: with our romantic partners, our friends, our family and most importantly, ourselves.

***Twice as Perfect* by Louise Onomé - [Link](#)**

Netflix's *Never Have I Ever* meets *Crazy Rich Asians* with a Nigerian twist in this brilliant young-adult novel about being caught in between worlds

For seventeen-year-old Adanna Nkwachi, life is all about duty: to school and the debate team, to her Nigerian parents, and even to her cousin Genny as Ada helps prepare Genny's wedding to Afrobeats superstar Skeleboy. Because ever since her older brother, Sam, had a fight with their parents a few years ago and disappeared, somebody has to fill the void he left behind. Ada may never know what caused Sam to leave home, but the one thing she's certain of is that it's on her to make sure her parents' sacrifices aren't in vain. Amid parental pressure, anxiety over the debate competition, a complicated love life, and the Nigerian wedding-to-end-all-weddings, can Ada learn, just this once, to put herself first?

***Narinjah (The Bitter Orange Tree)* by Jokha Alharthi (House of Anansi) - [Link](#)**

NARINJAH is an extraordinary tale of one young Omani woman building a life for herself in Britain and reflecting on the relationships that have made her. Zuhur, an Omani student at a British university, is caught between the past and the present. As she attempts to form friendships and assimilate in Britain, she can't help but ruminate on the relationships that have been central to her life. Most prominent is her strong emotional bond with Bint Amir, a woman she always thought of as her grandmother, who passed away just after Zuhur left the Arabian Peninsula.

As the historical narrative of Bint Amir's challenged circumstances unfurls in captivating fragments, so too does Zuhur's isolated and unfulfilled present, one narrative segueing into another as time slips and dreams mingle with memories. This book is a profound exploration of social status, wealth, desire, and female agency. It presents a mosaic portrait of one young woman's attempt to understand the roots she has grown from, and to envisage an adulthood in which her own power and happiness might find the freedom necessary to bear fruit and flourish.

BOOKS | NON-FICTION

***Tegan and Sara: Modern Heartthrobs* by Melody Lau (Invisible Publishing) - [Link](#)**

A guide to the music and multifaceted career of Canadian artists and songwriters Tegan and Sara. Through interviews with Tegan and Sara, their collaborators, journalists, and fans, this book explores the multifaceted career of one of music's most celebrated sister

duos, from their start as Neil Young's protégés to Canadian indie-rock purveyors and, making their riskiest transformation yet, into mainstream pop breakouts. Featuring continuous sonic transformations, Tegan and Sara's story is essential to Canadian music history.

***I Am Because We Are: An African Mother's Fight for the Soul of a Nation* by Chidiogo Akunyili-Parr (Arsenal Pulp Press) - [Link](#)**

In this innovative and intimate memoir, a daughter tells the story of her mother, a pan-African hero who faced down misogyny and battled corruption in Nigeria.

Inspired by the African philosophy of *Ubuntu* — the importance of community over the individual — and outraged by injustice, Dora Akunyili took on fraudulent drug manufacturers whose products killed millions, including her sister. A woman in a man's world, she was elected and became a cabinet minister, but she had to deal with political manoeuvrings, death threats, and an assassination attempt for defending the voiceless. She suffered for it, as did her marriage and six children. *I AM BECAUSE WE ARE* illuminates the role of kinship, family, and the individual's place in society, while revealing a life of courage, how community shaped it, and the web of humanity that binds us all.

***We Are Still Here: Afghan Women on Courage, Freedom, and the Fight to Be Heard* edited by Nahid Shahalimi (Penguin Canada) - [Link](#)**

In *WE ARE STILL HERE*, artist and activist Nahid Shahalimi compiles the voices of thirteen powerful, insightful, and influential Afghan women who have worked as politicians, journalists, scientists, filmmakers, artists, coders, musicians, and more. As they reflect on their country's past, stories of their own upbringing and the ways they have been able to empower girls and women over the past two decades emerge. They report on the fear and pain caused by the impending loss of their homeland, but, above all, on what many girls and women in Afghanistan have already lost: freedom, self-determination, and joy.

The result is an arresting book that issues an appeal to remember Afghan girls and women and to show solidarity with them. Like us, they have a right to freedom and dignity, and together we must fight for their place in the free world because Afghanistan is only geographically distant. Extremist ideas know no limits.

POETRY

***Light Spun* by Kwame Sound Daniels (Perennial Press) - [Link](#)**

LIGHT SPUN carries the reader on the poet's journey toward xirself. At once a meditation on love - outward and inward - this book is a collection of poems over a three

year period, wherein the poet details xir experiences with love, mental health, and Black American spirituality.

***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.”

***Fire Cider Rain* by Rhiannon Ng Cheng Hin - [Link](#)**

FIRE CIDER RAIN is a debut poetry novel about the limits to which shared cultural and geographic histories can hold a family together. It follows the lives of three Chinese-Mauritian women on the course of dispersing, settling, and rooting over northern landscapes, and the brittle family bonds that tie them to one another and to their home country.

***Nomenclature: New and Collected Poems* by Dionne Brand - [Link](#)**

Spanning almost four decades, Dionne Brand’s poetry has given rise to whole new grammars and vocabularies. With a profound alertness that is attuned to this world and open to some other, possibly future, time and place, Brand’s ongoing labours of witness and imagination speak directly to where and how we live and reach beyond those worlds, their enclosures, and their violences.

This masterwork displays Dionne Brand’s ongoing body of thought—trenchant, lyrical, absonant, discordant, and meaning-making. NOMENCLATURE: NEW AND COLLECTED POEMS is classic and living, a record of one of the great writers of our age.

GRAPHIC NOVELS + PICTURE BOOKS

***My Name Is Saajin Singh* written by Kuljinder Kaur Brar & illustrated by Samrath Kaur (Annick Press) - [Link](#)**

A debut picture book that explores the importance of pronouncing names properly and celebrates cultural identity. Saajin loves his name—he loves it so much that he sees it spelled out in the world around him in his snacks, in the sky and sometimes he even sings it aloud. On his first day of school, Saajin is excited to meet his new classmates, but things take a turn when the teacher mispronounces his name as Say-jin and he is not sure how—or if he should—correct her. After trying to live with the different version of his name for a while and some thoughtful conversations with his family about the

meaning behind it, Saajin realizes the importance of reclaiming his name and embracing his identity. This empowering story, accompanied by energetic and vibrant art by Samrath Kaur, will resonate with any reader who has ever felt misunderstood.

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**

AUDIO

Give or Take by Giveon (Epic Records) - [Link](#)

GIVE OR TAKE is the debut studio album from American singer-songwriter Giveon. This is the follow-up to his previous EP albums *Take Time* and *When It's All Said and Done*.

Towards The End by Katie Tupper (Arts and Craft Production) - [Link](#)

TOWARDS THE END is the 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.

Hi-Fidelity by Lava La Rue (Marathon Artists) - [Link](#)

London singer-songwriter and rapper Lava La Rue gives us another round of feathery vocals over sensual, psychedelic neo-soul on HI-FIDELITY. Lava provides us the perfect vibes to sit back and coast.

Breathing Room by Monelle (Redacted Music Group) - [Link](#)

BREATHING ROOM is the follow-up to her critically acclaimed album *In Loathing Memory*. Expanding on the themes of isolation and mental health, she dives into her personal experiences yet again to explore how trauma affects friendships and family. Monelle set out to embody the true raw emotion of navigating the world whilst struggling with mental health. This EP was written to comfort those who feel alone, and offers a guide for others to understand how to care for and listen to their friends when they're going through difficulties.

VISUAL

***Next Stop* (CBC Gem) - [Link](#)**

Created by Jabbari Weekes, Tichaona Tapambwa, and Phil Witmer

NEXT STOP is an anthology comedy series that chronicles the lives of young Black Torontonians as they confront the challenges of living in a competitive, expensive, and rapidly changing city. Season one consists of four episodes.

***The Lunchbox Dilemma* (Breathe) - [Link](#)**

Created by Yú

THE LUNCHBOX DILEMMA is a three-part series that takes a look at the lives of three Asian Canadians who recall hiding, discarding and forgetting their lunches — the ones their classmates called “weird,” “smelly” and “funny-looking.”

***Zarqa* (CBC Gem) - [Link](#)**

Created by Zarqa Nawaz

ZARQA is a Canadian web comedy series about Zarqa — a divorced, middle-aged Muslim woman — strives to reinvent herself ... until her impulsive and vindictive personality gets in the way. The first season consists of six episodes and is created by Zarqa Nawaz, the creator of *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.