

Contents

Foreword: "The Story Is the Thing" by Lydia Davis ix

Introduction by Stephen Emerson xxi

Angel's Laundromat 3

Dr. H. A. Moynihan 9

Stars and Saints 17

A Manual for Cleaning Women 26

My Jockey 39

El Tim 41

Point of View 51

Her First Detox 56

Phantom Pain 61

Tiger Bites 69

Emergency Room Notebook, 1977 88

Temps Perdu 98

Carpe Diem 106

Toda Luna, Todo Año 110

Good and Bad 125

Melina 137

Friends 145

Unmanageable 151

Electric Car, El Paso 155

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sex Appeal | 159 |
| Teenage Punk | 164 |
| Step | 167 |
| Strays | 170 |
| Grief | 179 |
| Bluebonnets | 194 |
| La Vie en Rose | 203 |
| Macadam | 210 |
| Dear Conchi | 211 |
| Fool to Cry | 221 |
| Mourning | 236 |
| Panteón de Dolores | 242 |
| So Long | 252 |
| A Love Affair | 261 |
| Let Me See You Smile | 272 |
| Mama | 303 |
| Carmen | 310 |
| Silence | 320 |
| Mijito | 333 |
| 502 | 356 |
| Here It Is Saturday | 363 |
| B.F. and Me | 376 |
| Wait a Minute | 380 |
| Homing | 388 |
| | |
| A Note on Lucia Berlin | 401 |
| Acknowledgments | 404 |