AFTERMATH OF FOREVER
How I Loved, Lost, and Found Myself by NATALYE CHILDRESS

“With unflinching honesty and exquisite spareness, Natalye Childress explores the spectrum of romantic love, in its tender, wild, painful, and redeeming dimensions. Though each of these finely tuned pieces can stand alone, when they are read together and in sequence the collection achieves a striking intensity of narrative momentum and richness of emotional resonance.” —Noelle Oxenhandler, author of The Wishing Year and The Eros of Parenthood

“Most people like to pretend they don’t have dirty laundry, but Childress gleefully airs hers to the world… If Helen Fielding grew up keeping a sexy Tumblr and listening to indie bands she might have been able to write a book like this.” —Chad Matheny, Emperor X

“In The Aftermath of Forever Natalye Childress explores romantic experiences through a memoir that is intimate and spare, unique yet relatable, and definitely beautiful. Aftermath is a bildungsroman that traces the trials and growth of a woman exploring herself through various kinds of love. Childress proves that music is the medium that the heart understands, and punctuates her own romantic encounters with an incredible soundtrack.” —Christine Davids, MA Literature | MFA Candidate, Poetry

The Aftermath of Forever is a powerfully descriptive and well-composed play-by-play of Natalye Childress’ dating life after a divorce from the man she thought she’d spend the rest of her life with. She includes track listings for the real mixtapes she made for each date, featuring additionally revealing punk, indie rock, and the like to explain what can’t be put into words. Unlike other confessional memoirs, which champion mistakes, embarrassment, or failure, The Aftermath of Forever uses an adult perspective learned from these experiences to reflect on these moments and why she made the decisions she did, allowing you to revel in the heartbreak, the success, the sexiness, and the maturation and learning opportunities of each moment.

ISBN: 9781621067139
Published: June 2014
Format: Paperback, 5x8”, 160 Pages
Subjects: Autobiography / Relationships
Price: $12.95 U.S.

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Audience: Young women trying to figure out the dynamics of dating, understanding what means what in the world, and how to navigate those complicated decisions about growing up without seeing them as condemnations. Also, fans of punk and indie rock and emerging genres of hip music and culture.

A powerful addition to the confessional dating memoir that looks at mistakes and embarrassments with the clarity and perspective of learning from them rather than reveling in them.

Natalye Childress is a writer, editor, and music journalist. In this past, she has worked for the Associated Press, the Press Democrat, and Crittenden Research. Her writing has been published on Thought Catalog and Last Week’s Memoir, as well as in a variety of magazines. She runs music magazine Berlin Beat and writes for Slow Travel Berlin. Natalye lives in Berlin, Germany, with her husband and two cats.

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