

## ABSTRACT

### STORIES FROM THE MAINLAND

This short story collection examines the lives of six different women who experience difficulties in their personal lives. Many of these women suffer loss at the same time they are at odds with people close to them. It is this sense of loss, and a need for personal fulfillment, that drives these stories. In “Plastic Chairs,” Nina meets an internet date while her husband waits for her at home. Hannah, in “A Tiny Perfect Thing,” grieves a recent loss while her marriage falls apart. In “Second Wife,” a woman marries a man twice her age, and this union adversely affects the man’s teenage daughter. Annemarie from “On the Mainland” studies the theater while the town’s mainstay industry erodes. In the final two stories, “A Quiet Weekend Afternoon,” and “Hungry,” women try to accept an impending loss against the backdrop of problematic relationships.

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