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Subduction

A NOVEL BY

Kristen Millares Young

Subduction is a lyric retelling of the troubled history of encounter in the Americas.

Fleeing the shattered remains of her marriage and a betrayal by her sister, in the throes of a midlife freefall, Latina anthropologist Claudia Ranks retreats from Seattle to Neah Bay, a Native American whaling village on the jagged Pacific coast. Claudia yearns to lose herself to the songs of the tribe and the secrets of her guide, a spirited hoarder named Maggie. But when, spurred by his mother's failing memory, Maggie's prodigal son Peter returns seeking answers to his father's murder, Claudia discovers in him the abandon she craves. Through the passionate and violent collision of these two outsiders, *Subduction* portrays not only their strange allegiance after grievous losses but also their imperfect attempts to find community on the Makah Indian Reservation.

ADVANCE PRAISE

“Young beautifully and vividly renders the Pacific Northwest, particularly the unique world of Neah Bay. *Subduction* is at once a thought-provoking meditation on the geography and geology of the natural world and a generous exploration of the natural shifts and movements that shape her characters.”

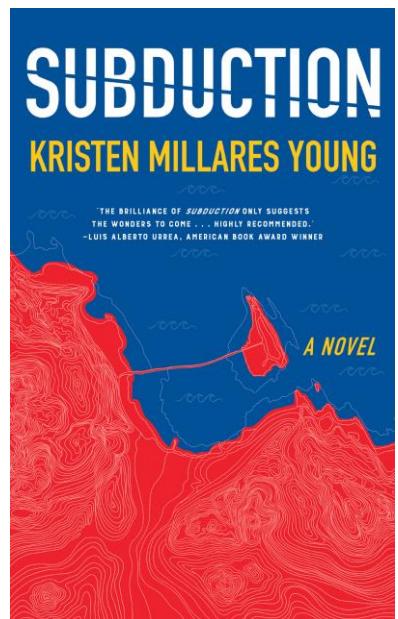
—**Jonathan Evison**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lawn Boy*

“The brilliance of *Subduction* only suggests the wonders to come. It is a good day for us when Kristen Millares Young puts pen to paper. Highly recommended.”

—**Luis Alberto Urrea**, winner of the American Book Award and author of *The House of Broken Angels*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristen Millares Young is a prize-winning journalist and essayist whose work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian* and the *New York Times*, along with the anthologies *Pie & Whiskey*, a 2017 *New York Times* New & Notable Book, and *Latina Outsiders: Remaking Latina Identity*. The current Prose Writer-in-Residence at Hugo House, Kristen was the researcher for the *New York Times* team that produced “Snow Fall,” which won a Pulitzer Prize. She graduated from Harvard with a degree in history and literature, later earning her MFA from the University of Washington. Kristen serves as board chair of *InvestigateWest*, a nonprofit news studio she co-founded in Seattle, where she lives with her family.



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MORE ADVANCE PRAISE

“In this commanding novel, Kristen Millares Young captures the brutality of an anthropological gaze upon a Makah community. Her complex, exquisitely shaped characters embody the calamity of intrusion and the beauty of resilience.”

—**Elissa Washuta**, author of *My Body is a Book of Rules*

“With dreamlike, salt-water-laced prose that feels born of the Salish Sea, Kristen Millares Young’s *Subduction* lyrically examines relationships strained and forged by place and belonging. Intelligently addressing womanhood, community, lust, and loss, this is a novel as deep as it is intoxicating, as intricate as it is powerful. Like Marilynne Robinson’s *Housekeeping*, *Subduction* is a novel to be celebrated for both its poetry and wisdom.”

—**Sharma Shields**, author of *The Cassandra*

FROM SUBDUCTION

The shore pulled away. Froth churned from its feet to hers. The engines hummed through her bones.

From the aft deck, Claudia looked back toward the city they made home. She searched the skyline for places they had been happy—the top of the space needle, a waterfront park, the ferris wheel—until her westward passage split the horizon into expanses of gray, demarcated into sea and sky by hue alone.

Puget Sound opened in fathoms below the ferry.

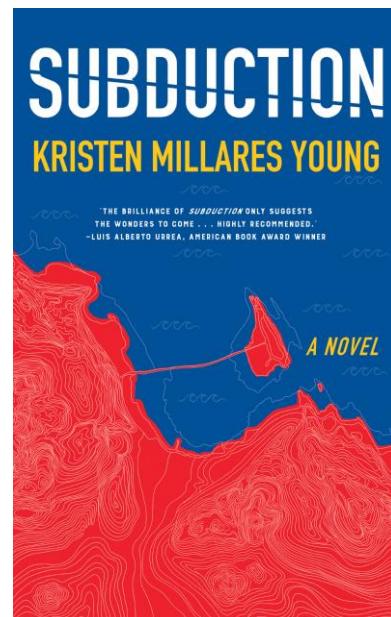
Claudia left town without saying her goodbyes. Seattle was a small world. Movers must have swarmed her house to clear out Andrew’s belongings in the space of one morning. The neighbors would have seen.

What had they seen? She couldn’t bring herself to ask whether her sister had been on site to supervise, and Claudia hid her phone in case someone felt like sending unsolicited glimpses—of Maria deciding what to take, practicing wifeliness. Slipping Andrew a kiss for courage as the first box was packed. Claudia pictured Maria’s thick curls, her narrow shoulders, her rounded hips. Birthing hips.

The broadcaster’s voice echoed through the loudspeakers, cautioning passengers about unknown items and suspicious activity.

It was cowardly of Andrew not to deliver the news in person. Worse still, Maria. Did they think she would handle it poorly? That she was dangerous?

Listening to the roar of the props, Claudia saw what her fate might have been—her body lying in the bathtub, blue and bloated. Afloat. Her stomach twisted. It was more than she could take—or forgive. They know what they are doing, she thought. Yet they think I deserve it.



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