



## Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories

By Sara Majka

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

### Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka

In subtle, sensuous prose, the stories in Sara Majka's debut collection explore distance in all its forms: the emotional spaces that open up between family members, friends, and lovers; the gaps that emerge between who we were and who we are; the gulf between our private and public selves. At the center of the collection is a series of stories narrated by a young American woman in the wake of a divorce; wry and shy but never less than open to the world, she recalls the places and people she has been close to, the dreams she has pursued and those she has left unfulfilled. Interspersed with these intimate first-person stories are stand-alone pieces where the tight focus on the narrator's life gives way to closely observed accounts of the lives of others. A book about belonging, and how much of yourself to give up in the pursuit of that, *Cities I've Never Lived In* offers stories that reveal, with great sadness and great humor, the ways we are most of all citizens of the places where we cannot be.

*Cities I've Never Lived In* is the second book in Graywolf's collaboration with the literary magazine *A Public Space*.

 [Download Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories ...pdf](#)

# Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories

By Sara Majka

## Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka

In subtle, sensuous prose, the stories in Sara Majka's debut collection explore distance in all its forms: the emotional spaces that open up between family members, friends, and lovers; the gaps that emerge between who we were and who we are; the gulf between our private and public selves. At the center of the collection is a series of stories narrated by a young American woman in the wake of a divorce; wry and shy but never less than open to the world, she recalls the places and people she has been close to, the dreams she has pursued and those she has left unfulfilled. Interspersed with these intimate first-person stories are stand-alone pieces where the tight focus on the narrator's life gives way to closely observed accounts of the lives of others. A book about belonging, and how much of yourself to give up in the pursuit of that, *Cities I've Never Lived In* offers stories that reveal, with great sadness and great humor, the ways we are most of all citizens of the places where we cannot be.

*Cities I've Never Lived In* is the second book in Graywolf's collaboration with the literary magazine *A Public Space*.

## Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #82591 in Books
- Brand: Graywolf Pr
- Published on: 2016-02-16
- Released on: 2016-02-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.03" h x .50" w x 5.34" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

 [Download Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

\*A *Chicago Tribune* Winter/Spring book pick and one of *The Millions'* most anticipated books of 2016\*

“Majka brings the reader to startling places. . . . From certain angles, it’s a kind of New England gothic, where the lost children and dead women and doppelgängers serve to add atmosphere and meaning to the narrator’s past peregrinations, her dalliances and uncertainties. It turns out in the end that this is in fact a book about an arty person with a complicated personal life. But it’s a lovely one, written in a moving and uncanny register.”? ***The New York Times Book Review***

“Arresting. . . . These are modest-seeming stories that hold deep truths, by a writer of great promise.”? ***The New York Times Book Review***

“Graceful.”? ***Oprah Magazine***

“I still can’t get some of [Majka’s] perfect assessments of the human condition out of my head. Her writing is matter-of-fact (thought very beautiful), and her characters are sad, occasionally desperate. . . . She’s incredibly effective.”? ***The Cut***

“If you’ve ever fantasized about ditching town for unknown corners of the U.S., this debut collection of short stories is sure to satisfy your curiosity.”? ***Refinery 29***

“Majka’s voice and world are wholly her own. A real feeling of warmth and nostalgia lifts these stories above the ordinary.”? ***Kenyon Review***

“Beautiful and poetic.”? ***Rain Taxi Review of Books***

“Precision, beauty, and reality meld in Majka’s captivating stories, which feature characters who live in obscurity on society’s fringes.”? ***Shelf Awareness***

“Majka has a talent for a striking observation.”? ***Kirkus Review***

“A human and eloquent exploration of isolation.”? ***Publishers Weekly***

“Majka’s stories gently remind us that we take our preoccupations with us wherever we go as we follow the narrator to vividly rendered places from the shoreline towns of Maine to small islands, from decaying Midwestern cities to Greenpoint by the BQE. The prose is lucid and spare, with crystalline moments of gut-punching insight on every page.”? ***Electric Literature***

“Majka is a great line-maker who can kill you in just a few words.”? ***LitReactor***

“Whether traversing mainland or islands, on terra firma or cut adrift, Majka’s narrator is wonderfully sympathetic. We see her, and others, battling loneliness and existing ‘a while without love,’ without ever sinking into self-pity. With great beauty and subtlety these 14 interlinked tales speak volumes about ‘what happens when what makes life possible disappears.’”? ***The Minneapolis Star Tribune***

“Sara Majka’s prose is the star in this debut collection of linked short stories, which follow a young New England woman rebuilding her life post-divorce. Majka’s words find a way to tear at your insides as they come together to form a vivid picture of isolation. Deeply moving, these stories are the kind that’ll make you stare straight into that roaring fire while you think hard about what’s important to you.”?Elle Magazine

“This amazing debut short story collection explores distance in all its forms. . . . This is a book filled with stunning craft and transportive stories. Subtle and intimate, Majka’s writing will reach all the way into you, plucking at your very core.”?Bustle

“A man leaves a woman; a woman leaves a man; in bars, hostels, and even soup kitchens, people search for connection. . . . Every story [in *Cities I’ve Never Lived In*] comes back to the themes that occupy the young narrator’s mind the most: loneliness and loss, the in-between spaces of life, and the struggle to understand ourselves and the people around us.”?Booklist

“There’s an observational quality to these stories that makes them feel lived and are packed with truths that wouldn’t feel out of place in a personal essay. . . . That’s the beauty of Majka’s voice: a dreary day turns Gothic, ordinary loss transforms into something wise, even if we never quite make it to the place we’re striving to reach.”?San Diego CityBeat

“There is a quiet, meditative reflection of beautiful language, emotion and unsolvable mysteries of life that had me rereading passages over and over.”?The Daily Dosage

“These stories are a marvel that will break your heart. . . . Majka’s debut is breath-stopping.”?A.N. Devers, Longreads

“*Cities I’ve Never Lived In* is my favorite kind of story collection?one that strikes many, many delicate balances. It’s both comforting and spooky, dreamlike and surprisingly frank, clear-eyed and slyly supernatural, and often all simultaneously.”?Callie Collins, American Short Fiction

“These stories are sparse and fierce and move elegantly to the very heart of the reader. The voice remains with me, has left an emotional trace like a person I lived with and loved and often recall.”?Catherine Lacey, author of *Nobody is Ever Missing*

“A collection that leaves you longing?as one longs to return to much loved, much missed homes and communities and cities?for places that you, the reader have never been. Prodigal with insight into why and how people love and leave, and love again. Humane, dazzling, and knowing.”?Kelly Link, author of *Magic for Beginners*

“Like Alice Munro and Raymond Carver, Sara Majka writes stories of people on society’s ragged edge?in money trouble, work trouble, heart trouble?and does so with tremendous subtlety and a grave sophistication all her own. Every one of the spare sentences in this book is heavy with implication and insight. It’s impossible to read these stories too closely.” ?Salvatore Scibona, author of *The End*

“I cannot remember a book that more perfectly achieves the sensation of, as Majka describes, ‘being nowhere, or in someone else’s life, or between lives.’ With each subsequent story, the feeling intensified until, as only the very best writing can do, I felt transformed by the experience. *Cities I’ve Never Lived In* is a momentous book, and Majka is a writer operating at a very high level of insight.”?Kevin Wilson, author of *The Family Fang*

“*Cities I’ve Never Lived In* is like no other book I’ve read: graceful and poignant, original and wise. Its stories unfold in the bars, thrift stores, and rented rooms of a Maine you won’t find in tourist guidebooks or

outdoor catalogs, but their deeper territory is the human heart: loss and loneliness, desire and grief, and the strange beauty to be found in desolation. Like the memories that haunt her watchful, wounded characters, Sara Majka's exquisite prose stayed with me long after I had turned the last page of this terrific debut.”?**Mia Alvar, author of *In the Country***

“This is a beautiful and destabilizing book filled with ghosts. Majka is a writer I’d read anything by.”?**Diane Cook, author of *Man Vs. Nature***

“The characters in Sara Majka’s haunting collection drift through cities and landscapes like refugees from feeling, searching for something they can’t begin to name. These stories confound all our expectations: they fade in and out like memories or dreams, at once indelible and impossible to grasp. Again and again they broke my heart. Majka is a daring and enormously gifted writer, and this is a thrilling, devastating debut.”?**Garth Greenwell, author of *What Belongs to You***

#### About the Author

**Sara Majka**’s stories have appeared in *A Public Space*, *PEN America*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *Guernica*. A former fiction fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, she lives in Queens, New York.

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

###### **Gary Ackley:**

Typically the book Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

###### **Patrick Myers:**

The reserve untitled Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories is the book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to an individual. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of analysis when write the book, therefore the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

###### **Tara Huber:**

Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial

pondering.

**Jason Valladares:**

Do you like reading a reserve? Confuse to looking for your favorite book? Or your book ended up being rare? Why so many query for the book? But any kind of people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes looking at, not only science book but additionally novel and Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories or even others sources were given understanding for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel would like to read more and more. Science reserve was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those publications are helping them to put their knowledge. In additional case, beside science e-book, any other book likes Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories to make your spare time more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

**Download and Read Online Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka #3GNCF769PSY**

# **Read Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka for online ebook**

Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka books to read online.

## **Online Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka ebook PDF download**

**Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka Doc**

**Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka MobiPocket**

**Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka EPub**

**3GNCF769PSY: Cities I've Never Lived In: Stories By Sara Majka**