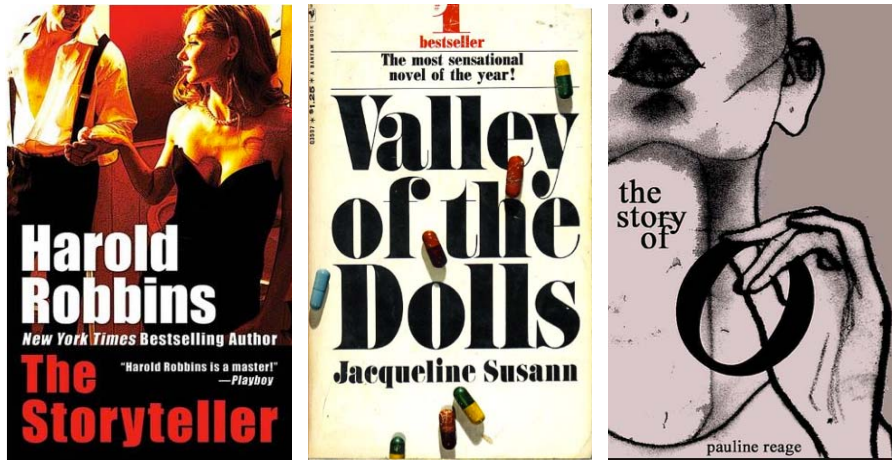


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## Litquake Takes On Love, Lust and Valentine's Day



*Love Hurts: Litquake Preps You for Valentine's Day with Readings From Some of the Most Wretched Passages on Love and Lust Ever Written* commemorates what many consider the year's most overrated holiday with local writers reading their favorite overwrought prose from classics including among others, Kirk Read burrowing into Harold Robbins, Michelle Richmond tackling Paul Theroux, Daphne Gottlieb's selection from *The Story of O* and *New York Times* bestseller Ellen Sussman cracking open that mother ship of romance and substance abuse, *Valley of the Dolls!*

February 13, 7pm at The Make-Out Room, \$10.00 in advance or at the door; tickets available at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/220126>

**January 26, San Francisco-** Litquake, San Francisco's Literary Festival throws some shade when it presents *Love Hurts: Litquake Preps You for Valentine's Day*, their first programming of 2012. Emceed by humorist, author, and artist Cassie Sneider, it will feature a total of 10 Bay Area authors reading their favorite overwrought prose from classics by the likes of Harold Robbins and Paul Theroux as well as selections from *The Story of O*, and that mother ship of romance and substance abuse, *Valley of the Dolls*.

Among the participating author are Kirk Read and Michelle Richmond who were both asked about their choices:

"I used to relocate things to my room that belonged to my parents," says Read. "Cigars, condoms ...

and the latest Harold Robbins book. The best parts of childhood are stolen.”

“Why *have* bad sex when you can belauding at bad sex instead?” asks Richmond. “If it throbs valiantly, pants rapidly, explodes vastly, or shudders demurely, we've got it. Join us. You know you want to.”

### Readers in alphabetical order:

- 1. Justin Chin** taking his exacto knife approach to *The World of Suzie Wong*, a 1957 novel by Richard Mason about a young British artist in Hong Kong who falls in with a Chinese woman who works as a prostitute, that has been adapted into a play, a very popular film as well as a ballet.
- 2. Daphne Gottlieb's** selection from the scandalous-when-it-was-published *The Story of O*, a tale of female submission about a Parisian fashion photographer who is encouraged to enjoy blindfolds, chains, whips and masks (among other things).
- 3. Brock Keeling** - TBA
- 4. Dr. Marty Klein** promises to delve into Philip Roth (Portnoy's Complaint? Your guess is as good as ours.)
- 5. MariNaomi** will conjure early, pre-conversion to Catholicism Anne Rice
- 6. Kirk Read** promises to bring *The Storyteller* by Harold Robbins—the son of well-educated Polish and Russian immigrants who sold over 750 million copies of his books in 32 languages—to smutty, glorious life.
- 7. Michelle Richmond** will plumb passages from *Blinding Light* by Paul Theroux, the tale of a writer who finds himself hooked on a drug that heightens his powers of perception and libido, all while extracting a cost of periodic blindness ... a cost he is only too willing to pay.
- 8. Ellen Sussman** wades into the American classic, Jackie Susann's *Valley of the Dolls*. This tender story of ambition, drug dependence and romance was the first [roman à clef](#) by a female author—who Truman Capote described as a “truck drive in drag” on the Tonight Show—to achieve a huge level of sales in America (30 million sold!) Fans of the movie will be surprised to know that the book actually takes place not in the swingin' sixties, but rather culminates in 1965 after starting in the much more staid mid 1940s.
- 9. Michelle Tea** - TBA
- 10. Malena Watrous** is keeping mum about specifics, but she plans to narrate from an out of print novel by one of her former professors.

In addition, two members of the audience will be invited to participate and read selections from *The Very Virile Viking*, first published in 2003 as well as *Princess Daisy* by Judith Krantz.

**What:** [Love Hurts: Litquake Preps You for Valentine's Day with Readings From Some of the Most Wretched Passages on Love and Lust Ever Written](#)

**When:** February 13, 2012, 7:00 PM

**Where:** Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St, SF (415) 647-2888

**Tickets:** \$10 in advance or at the door/ Brown Paper Tickets <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/220126>

### **About Litquake**

Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival, was founded by Bay Area writers in order to put on a week-long literary spectacle for book lovers, complete with cutting-edge panels, unique cross-media events, and hundreds of readings. Since its founding in 1999, the festival has presented more than 3,650 author appearances for an audience of over 83,500 in its lively and inclusive celebration of San Francisco's thriving contemporary literary scene. Litquake seeks to foster interest in literature, perpetuate a sense of literary community, and provide a vibrant forum for Bay Area writing as a complement to the city's music, film, and cultural festivals. Dates: 10/5-13, 2012. [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org)

### **Litquake is made possible in part due to the support of the following**

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