***The Argonauts***

**Maggie Nelson**

“Maggie Nelson is one of the most electrifying writers at work in America today.” —Olivia Laing, *The Guardian*



[May 2016 Pick for Our Shared Shelf,Emma Watson’s book club](http://ew.com/article/2016/04/27/emma-watson-book-club-argonauts-maggie-nelson/)

**\***[**WINNER OF MACARTHUR “GENIUS” GRANT 2016**](https://www.macfound.org/fellows/962/)**\***

**\***[**WINNER OF 2015 NATIONAL BOOK CRITIC’S CIRCLE AWARD IN CRITICISM**](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/17/books/review/editors-choice.html)**\***

**Features and Interviews**

*New Yorker,* “[Immediate Family](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/04/18/maggie-nelsons-many-selves),” profile by Hilton Als, April 18, 2016

*Guardian,* [interview](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/apr/02/books-interview-maggie-nelson-genders) with Paul Laity, April 2, 2016

*The Cut,* “[Maggie Nelson Refuses to Make Things Simple](https://www.thecut.com/2016/04/maggie-nelson-refuses-to-make-things-simple.html?mid=twitter_cut),” profile by Alexandra Molotkow, April 18, 2016

*Believer*, [interview](https://logger.believermag.com/post/2016/04/28/stories-of-self-volume-6) with Scott F. Parker, April 28, 2016

*Guernica,* “Inflections Forever New: Ariel Lewiton Interviews Maggie Nelson,” March 2015

*Poets & Writers,* “[Finding the Words](https://www.pw.org/content/finding_the_words_a_qa_with_maggie_nelson),” Q&A with Michele Filgate, April 2015

*Literary Hub,* “Diary, Theory, Poem, Memoir,” interview with Adam Fitzgerald, May 5, 2015

*Flaunt,* “An Identity That Can Be Distilled Used to Imagine a Future,” interview,” May 4, 2015

*Tin House,* “It is Idle to Fault a Net For Having Holes,” interview, May 4, 2015

*The Rumpus,* [interview](https://jezebel.com/a-conversation-with-maggie-nelson-about-the-argonauts-1704476773) with Darcey Steinke, May 6, 2015

*The Atlas Review,* interview with Molly Rose Quinn, Issue 4

*White Review,* interview with Jess Cotton, May 2015

*Salon,* interview with Chloe Caldwell, May 8, 2015

*Jezebel,* [interview](https://jezebel.com/a-conversation-with-maggie-nelson-about-the-argonauts-1704476773) with Maireed Small Staid, May 18, 2015

*KQED Arts,* interview with Leilani Clark, May 24, 2015

*Bookforum,* interview with Sarah Nicole Prickett, June 1, 2015

*VICE,* [interview](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/jmagq8/maggie-nelson-is-in-drag-as-a-mother-and-as-a-married-person-728) with R.O. Kwan, July 28, 2015

**Literary Praise**

“Maggie Nelson is one of the most electrifying writers at work in America today, among the sharpest and most supple thinkers of her generation… Describing [*The Argonauts*] as a love story might come closest. It is, after all, about love and its fruits: both the falling in love and the maintaining of affection, devotion, tenderness. It is about love and marriage, motherhood, pregnancy, birth and family-making, and because it is a book by Maggie Nelson, it turns every one of these concepts on its head…The Nelsonian unit of thought is not the chapter but the paragraph, a mode that allows for deep swerves and juxtapositions, for the interspersing of anecdote and analysis…The effect is musical, polyphonic, a conversation between multiple participants rather than a narcissistic aria…Generative and generous, this is a book that belongs on the shelves of anyone who desires, especially if what they desire is nothing short of freedom itself.”—Olivia Laing, [*The Guardian*](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/mar/27/the-agronauts-maggie-nelson-observer-review)

“So much writing about motherhood makes the world seem smaller after the child arrives, more circumscribed, as if in tacit fealty to the larger cultural assumptions about moms and domesticity; Nelson’s book does the opposite.”—Jennifer Szalai, [*The New York Times Book Review*](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/books/review/maggie-nelsons-the-argonauts.html)

“*The Argonauts* is a moving exploration of family and love.”—Molly Fischer, [*New Yorker*](https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/the-beauty-and-the-limitations-of-being-normal)

“[Nelson’s] book—part memoir, part critical inquiry touching on desire, love, and family—is a superb exploration of the risk and the excitement of change. Thinking and feeling are, for Nelson, mutually necessary processes; the result is an exceptional portrait both of a romantic partnership and of the collaboration between Nelson’s mind and heart.”—[*New Yorker*](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/05/25/briefly-noted-a-little-life)

“*The Argonauts* shows us the value of lives, and books, that refuse to be ‘all one thing’…With a brilliant, unblinking eye for abjection, she describes her own pregnancy and childbirth experiences as drastic physical rearrangement entailing bouts of vast pain and even an intimate encounter with death… Impressively for a work that was largely composed in sections, *The Argonauts* is a keenly conceived whole. It's a book about using the writings of smart, even difficult writers to help us find clarity and precision in our intimate lives, and it's a book about the no less intimate pleasures of the life of the mind.”—Sara Marcus, [*Los Angeles Times: Jacket Copy*](http://beta.latimes.com/books/jacketcopy/la-ca-jc-maggie-nelson-20150503-story.html)

“Nelson's writing is fluid -- to read her story is to drift dreamily among her thoughts…She masterfully analyzes the way we talk about sex and gender.”—Maddie Crum, [*Huffington Post*](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/05/maggie-nelson-argonauts_n_7163136.html)

“Nelson's vibrant, probing and, most of all, outstanding book is also a philosophical look at motherhood, transitioning, partnership, parenting, and family — an examination of the restrictive way we've approached these terms in the past and the ongoing struggle to arrive at more inclusive and expansive definitions for them.”—Tomas Hachard, [*NPR*](https://www.npr.org/2015/05/07/403127434/the-argonauts-is-a-voyage-through-parenting-partnership-and-transition)

“A lushly poetic intellectual oasis.”—Nancy Kates, [*San Francisco Chronicle*](http://www.sfgate.com/books/article/The-Argonauts-by-Maggie-Nelson-6350107.php)

“Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts* exists in its own universe. My first reaction to Nelson’s book was awestruck silence, such as one might experience when confronted with some dazzling supernatural phenomenon. Nelson is so outrageously gifted a writer and thinker that *The Argonauts* seems to operate in some astral dimension where the rules of normal physics have been suspended. Her book is an elegant, powerful, deeply discursive examination of gender, sexuality, queerness, pregnancy and motherhood, all conveyed in language that is intellectually potent and poetically expressive. Despite its strangeness, it shines with a generosity of spirit.”—Michael Lindgren, [*The Washington Post*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/the-national-book-critics-circle-finalists-in-criticism-award/2016/03/08/c1acf84e-df2e-11e5-846c-10191d1fc4ec_story.html?utm_term=.904258c60443)

“Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts* is a gorgeously constructed examination of motherhood, love, and queerness. This is the first must-read book of the summer!” —Isaac Fitzgerald, *BuzzFeed Books* (video trailer)

“Brilliant like nothing else you've ever read, Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts* is as hard to pin down as it is stunning. In sharp, intense bursts of language, Nelson melds critical theory with her most personal musings, as she navigates falling in lust and love, explores gender, sexuality, and motherhood, and builds a family with artist Harry Dodge. Although slim, The Argonauts contains worlds of thought and feeling, challenging our assumptions and moving our hearts. This book is the first must-read of the summer.”—Isaac Fitzgerald, *BuzzFeed Books* (subscribers’ newsletter)

“Nelson gives us an account of eros and progeny like none other.”—Daniel Yaffe, *The Daily Beast*

“*The Argonauts* is Nelson’s brilliant and poetically associative search for a way to create a space within language and the world where she and [Harry] Dodge can make their life together… She does not bend genre so much as she refuses to bend her writing to meet genre’s demands, and it is that *unbendingness* that makes her work so fresh, compelling, dark, and intimate….One of the great gifts of Nelson’s writing is how it embodies the process of her mind at work. She leaps deftly between theory, memory, observation, and absurdity without her prose feeling episodic or disjointed.”—Abby Paige, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

“The lit-crit equivalent of a well-curated post-punk jukebox…What Nelson’s up to is something more like deploying her own experience as an engine for thinking that spins out into the world and backwards and forwards in time…If trading quotations from Barthes and arguing about Wittgenstein isn’t your idea of romance, bear in mind that Nelson is frank (and funny and unpretentious and above all enthusiastic)…[this] is a singular book.”—Christian Lorentzen, [*New York Magazine (Vulture)*](http://www.vulture.com/2015/05/poet-maggie-nelsons-queer-new-memoir.html)

“Part portrait of a happy family, part critical meditation on queerness, Nelson’s hybrid book suggests a new path for the memoir. There’s no need for falls from grace or stirring redemptions when you can look at life and death, as Nelson does, with a refined critical eye. It doesn’t hurt that she speaks with the voice of a poet either.”—Christian Lorentzen, *New York Magazine,* “Best Books of 2015 (So Far)”

“Maggie Nelson slays entrenched notions of gender, marriage, and sexuality with lyricism, intellectual brass, and soul-ringing honesty in *The Argonauts.*”—*Vanity Fair,* “Hot Type”

“Maggie Nelson organically weaves theory into her own messy, real life (conception, death, motherhood, gender transformation). She does this so warmly that you dilate with her, softening where you might have instinctively clenched with fear. I read *The Argonauts* in one breathless, tearful, mind-blown day and I'm still recovering.”—Miranda July, *Harper’s Bazaar,* “Female Literati Pick Summer’s Best Books”

“*The Argonauts* is deeply, personally and movingly about love. . . A considered rejection of false choices, an intelligent, irritating, theoretical, intimate, funny, sad and exhilarating testament to the ever-fluid process of seeing out and getting out.”—Patricia Hagen, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“[A] love song that only occasionally sounds like the essay it technically is…Nelson’s sentences can be heart-stopping in their structural perfection, yet the most incredible thing about *The Argonauts* isn’t the language but the lack of noise. The work’s elements are so precisely weighted that no part isn’t necessary: You can begin reading anywhere and feel immediately thrown forward. You know that you won’t want to stop.”—Sarah Nicole Prickett, *Bookforum,* in interview

“From one page to the next, *The Argonauts* inspires bliss.”—R.O. Kwan, *VICE*

“Maggie Nelson’s book is a lava pool of shifting selves…Nelson’s fragments feel like units of resistance against the churn of conventional narratives about marriage, about the radical and normative, about narratives themselves… Nelson shows us the pointlessness of partitioning life from life, of quarantining the domestic from the erotic, from the political…Family becomes less about the particular relations between people than the acts of devotion that pass between them…[*The Argonauts*] invites us to try to hold a little more in our eye, to define families broadly—out of necessity and joy—to remember, as Eula Biss might say, that they are continuous with everything on earth.”—Parul Sehgal, *Bookforum,* “Mothers of Invention”

“[A] boldly personal work…Nelson guides us from one anecdote to another, all comfortably spaced across pages free from headings and chapter breaks. Readers will feel as though they are in her head, continually on the crest of her thoughts.”—Thomas Harlander, *Los Angeles Magazine,* “6 Books You Need to Read This May”

“In a culture still too quick to ask people to pick a side — to be male or female, to be an assimilationist or a revolutionary, to be totally straight or totally gay, totally hetero- or totally homo-normative — Nelson's book is a beautiful, passionate and shatteringly intelligent meditation on what it means not to accept binaries but to improvise an individual life that says, without fear, *yes*, *and*. This, Nelson says, ‘is an activity that demands an attentiveness — a relentlessness, even — whose very rigor tips it into ardor.’ What's remarkable about *The Argonauts* is that it's an entire book that does just that: It pays relentless, ardent attention to the idea of dynamism, in which people can choose to engage in ‘an endless becoming.’”—Kathleen Rooney, *Chicago Tribune*

“Nelson has no appetite for binary oppositions; she is hungry for paradox. In her prolific early career (four books of poetry, five books of nonfiction) she has continually occupied the interstices of complex, contradictory language and ideas. Writing fluently across registers—from the lyric to the procedural, from the scholarly to the vernacular—Nelson folds personal and often confessional narratives into probing critical and theoretical inquiries.”—Ariel Lewiton, *Guernica*

“A celebration of mothering and a complex and challenging investigation of just what and who we are and become when we create children.”—Nathaniel Deuel, *Los Angeles Times*

 “Maggie Nelson explores the frontiers of thinking about love, language, and family, adding to a stunning body of work unconstrained by labels of form and genre.”—Michele Filgate, *Poets & Writers*

“Reading Nelson is like sweeping the leaves out of your mental driveway: by the end of one of her books, you have a better understanding of how the world works…The result is one of the most intelligent, generous, and moving books of the year.”—Gabe Habash, *Publishers Weekly,* “Best Summer Books 2015”

“*The Argonauts* is ultimately a fierce interrogation of the transforming and transformative nature of love, be it toward a lover, child, or parent…Nelson’s generosity gives us access to the interior of that force field, what one normally protects from the exterior world.”—Diana Arterian, *Boston Review*

“*The Argonauts* is a story of devotion, or rather many stories, told out of profound love…Persistently excavating the complexity of experience, Nelson travels from love to gender to marriage to childbirth to children to perception to family to the writing act and beyond. Take me, she says, all of me. Perhaps you will experience, in my reflection, your own. An image messier than you might think, but much closer to the truth.”—Samuel Ace, *The Volta*

“Wonderfully lawless, deeply personal, and ferociously intelligent.”—Vincent Scarpa, *Tin House*

“[*The Argonauts*] lives in a gorgeous gray area that explores language, lust, loss, the ebb and flow of bodies, and limitations on identity and labels. The personal narrative is threaded with theory and criticism, employing a collage technique that Nelson has mastered and made her own… This book has the capacity to hold your whole brain and heart. When you finish it, you’ll want to open another of Nelson’s books, immediately. It’s an important and impassioned book, one you will be better for having read.”—Chloe Caldwell, [*Salon*](https://www.salon.com/2015/05/08/author_maggie_nelson_on_fielding_nosy_questions_about_queer_families_you_have_to_be_tough_and_foxy%E2%80%9D/)

“In a book of transformations, Nelson discovers a relationship between writing and holding—both sometimes require letting go, and so, she does.”—Nathan Huffstutter, *Electric Literature*

“Maggie [Nelson] is that rare writer, a true woman of letters. She writes poetry, non-fiction, and criticism…*The Argonauts* moves effortlessly from snippets of high theory to meditations on sex, motherhood, death, and the challenges of long-term partnership.”—Darcey Steinke, *The Rumpus*

“Like the *Argo*, this book keeps building on itself with stories of sexual and intellectual and maternal passion, the conception and birth of Nelson’s son, and the decline and death of Dodge’s mother. There’s gender fluidity, bodily fluids, the fluid nature of language, the ebb and flow of life and death. But at its center is always love, its meaning ever renewed, from its first utterance on a cold cement floor to the last, which, in this ongoing narrative, still has yet to be said.”—Randon Billings Noble, *The A.V. Club*

““Nelson offers one of the most resonant personal narratives of what contractions and the delivery of a baby can feel like. . . . Deeply original and thought-provoking. . . . A contemplation of the peculiar happiness that can come with family life.”—Elizabeth Toohey, *Christian Science Monitor*

“I like where I go when I read Maggie Nelson’s forthcoming essay *The Argonauts* – I like it so much that I keep reading it again and again so that I can keep going there. Nelson offers a philosophical stance, an ethical posture, an attitude toward life that is joyous to inhabit. When I leave her meditations on family-making and queerness, I feel buoyed in my own efforts toward family-making and radical difference.”— *TheMillions,* Eula Biss for “A Year In Reading”

“Disarmingly generous, fiercely smart, exhilaratingly curious and tender.”—Jess Cotton, *The White Review*

“In *The Argonauts*, Nelson turns her wit and haunting prose to her most intimate subject to date: her family…*The Argonauts* finds Nelson at her most vulnerable, arguing for a radical rethinking of the terms in which we express love.”—Catherine Carberry, *The Paris Review,* “Staff Picks”

“Maggie Nelson writes like no one else on the planet. Her work dives—headlong, yet gracefully—into the ugly, messy, or simply complicated; she treats our bodies’ instincts, whether fear, desire, or violence, with the same erudite analysis more often accorded to art and literature, the offspring of those instincts…The result is frank, smart, and remarkably sensuous.”—Maireed Small Staid, *Jezebel*

“The very act of reading *The Argonauts* feels revolutionary.”—Grace Bello, *Barnes & Noble Review*

“*The Argonauts*, a slim book by poet and critic Maggie Nelson, contains multitudes. It’s a love letter to her fluidly gendered partner, the artist Harry Dodge. It’s an appreciation of her favorite queer thinkers. It’s a chronicle of first-time motherhood. It’s also the best kind of nonfiction read, the kind that enlarges one’s reading list by half. One could say it’s dense with critical theory, but that gives the wrong impression. Nelson’s style is spacious, digressive, generous in both the breadth of its reading and its esteem for the reader. She handles references with elegance: instead of footnotes, there occasionally pops up a ‘Michel Foucault’ or ‘Judith Butler’ in the margin. The effect is that we seem to think alongside Nelson; it is easy to follow her anywhere.”—Daphne Sidor, *Lambda Literary*

“Nelson becomes pregnant, flush with estrogen, at the same time Dodge begins taking testosterone, and for Nelson, words carry; italicized citations form a blended structure for Nelson’s feeling, little choral descants folded in, the authors’ names tacked in the margins, creating a family album of validating prose. Can language keep up with the ways we live? I don’t know, but *The Argonauts* suggests that perhaps feeling alive is to have nothing made clear.”—Katherine Bernard, *The Awl*

“Part memoir and part theory, *The Argonauts* is a beautiful examination of queer identity, relationships, and parenthood written with stunningly careful, rich prose. The book's attention to gender expression makes it an especially timely, necessary read in a world that's slowly but surely becoming more and more open-minded about transgender people's experiences…Any and all readers will get something powerful out of this book.”—Powell’s Bookstore, “Book of Now”

“It’s a pleasure to watch Nelson’s mind work on the page. She unspools the words and ideas of other thinkers, and threads them through the questions of her own life…[*The Argonauts* is] glorious in its giving.”—Melissa Febos, *The Rumpus*

“wholly complex and pleasurable, cross-connecting forms of autobiographical, theorhetorical, and epistolyrical inquiry.”—A.L. Steiner, *BOMB*

“An unclassifiable masterpiece.”—Willa Paskin, *Slate*

“To read Nelson as a memoirist is to consider the self as a cultural artifact, and one that, given culture’s many cross-vectors, is always in flux… there’s nothing salacious in these disclosures. Nelson’s real, and more intimate, revelation is of her way of seeing.”―Scott F. Parker, *Believer*

“Centered around her domestic life with trans artist Harry Dodge, the book interlaces canonical texts on philosophy, psychology, and politics with Nelson’s own accounts of the tender mundanities and dramas that occur as she navigates her own family life.”—Elaina Ransford, *Flaunt*

“This latest work is Nelson’s most personal yet…She’s hit her stride with this hybrid work…She’s perfected the series of tight prose blocks, which enact a narrative but also swerve into all kinds of intellectual digression…Nelson eviscerates lazy thinking…What makes this book such a pleasure to read is Nelson’s fierce intellect, which she thrillingly aims at the body. She has poet’s attention to detail with a critic’s readiness to joyfully dismantle everything we think we know… Her intelligence is matched only by extreme honesty…Words might not always be good enough, but they’re the best we have, and Maggie Nelson is one of the best writers alive to use them.”—Lauren Creste, *Full-Stop*

“The universal story of all couples growing older together and a story that could belong to no one but the two of them. A rich account of a love affair…moving…Perhaps most unusually, the book is an involving and heartfelt account of Nelson’s lifelong relationship with critical theory…This book should be experienced in full, as a complete ship. Like one, it takes you places you couldn't have reached otherwise without drowning.”—David Burr Gerard, *Biographile*

“Frank, experimental.”—Amanda Katz, *Boston Globe,* “Suggested Summer Reads”

“*The Argonauts* has this confidence to it—this sort of steeled defiance—that I loved. It's no less romantic, but the tenor of the romance feels ferocious.”—Ana Cecilia Alvarez, *The Hairpin*

“Moving and exciting…[Nelson] writes beautifully about the deeply sensory, even sensual, joy that her child brings her, and about the difficulty of disentangling this mother love from other loves…disarmingly direct.”—Sam Huber, *Feministing*

“Maggie Nelson has proven her brilliance — a special blend of poeticism and philosophy, of theorizing and prose-weaving — in her eight previous nonfiction releases. But in *The Argonauts*, the gifted critic and scholar breaks generic ground with her work of “autotheory,” which offers a glimpse into the writer’s mind, body, and home: at the core of this Barthes-and-Baudrillard-dropping memoir is Nelson’s relationship with the gender-fluid artist Harry Dodge. Here Nelson works her way, both emotionally and academically, across the charged terrain of committing to a person who eschews gendered pronouns; of building a queer-parented family; and of falling deeply in love with someone whose very being sparks debate and incites confusion. *The Argonauts* is a must-read.”—Caroline Goldstein, *Bustle*

“Nelson is one of my favorite living writers (perhaps my favorite?), and this is a deeply moving, engaging book.”—Rebecca Hussey, *Bookriot*

“*The Argonauts* asks us to loosen and undo the binary thinking that limits our experiences of one another. At turns humorous and devastating, and laced with citations from a litany of writers that seamlessly enter the text, *The Argonauts* is as fantastic as you’ve heard it is. . . . [It] tenderly and irreducibly swerves away from categorization into lush, incredible desire.”—Nick Sturm, *ArtsATL.com*

“If you mix together one part theory, one part memoir, and a hearty dose of love story, you’ll end up with something like Maggie Nelson’s new book *The Argonauts*. Nelson’s story follows both the birth of her relationship with Harry Dodge, who is fluidly gendered, and the birth of their son. Between the narrative of their meeting, marriage and family-building, Nelson digs deep into questions of gender, sexuality, motherhood, and the individual…Fresh and incredibly timely.”—*River City Reading*

“In a fast-shifting terrain of ‘homonormativity,’ Nelson, poet and author of numerous works of gender and sexuality, plows ahead with a disarmingly blushing work about trying to simultaneously embrace her identity, her marriage with nomadic transgender filmmaker Harry, and motherhood. Nelson writes in fine, fragmented exhalations, inserting quotes from numerous theorists as she goes. Her narrative is an honest, joyous affirmation of one happily unconventional family finding itself.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A fiercely provocative and intellectually audacious memoir that focuses on motherhood, love and gender fluidity…[The book] turns the whole process and concept of motherhood inside out, exploring every possible perspective, blurring the distinctions among the political, philosophical, aesthetic and personal… A book that will challenge readers as much as the author has challenged herself.”—*Kirkus* (starred review)

“Maggie Nelson cuts through our culture's prefabricated structures of thought and feeling with an intelligence whose ferocity is ultimately in the service of love. No piety is safe, no orthodoxy, no easy irony. The scare quotes burn off like fog.”—Ben Lerner, author of *Leaving the Atocha Station*

“Maggie Nelson… She's so much better than anything I've read for a long, long time.” —Karl Ove Knausgaard, author of *My Struggle*

"What a dazzlingly generous, gloriously unpredictable book! Maggie Nelson shows us what it means to be real, offering a way of thinking that is as challenging as it is liberating. She invites us to 'pay homage to the transitive' and enjoy 'a becoming in which one never becomes.' Reading *The Argonauts* made me happier and freer."—Eula Biss, author of *The Balloonists* and *Notes from No Man's Land*

"There isn’t another critic alive like Maggie Nelson—who writes with such passion, clarity, explicitness, fluidity, playfulness, and generosity that she redefines what *thinking* can do today.  Indeed, I come away from *The Argonauts* with a heady, excited sensation of having seen unveiled a new era of embodied, soulful rumination.  Her impeccable sentences destroy *doxa* and gleefully remake the body politic;  her prose seems air-borne, like an Argus-eyed levitator in touch with the divine.  Buoyant, Nelson soars through art and philosophy and her own experiences with reckless mastery and insurrectionary ease—a virtuosity born of deep reflection and fearless trust in what literature, at its best, can do." —Wayne Koestenbaum, author of *Humiliation*

"Once again, Maggie Nelson has created an awe-inspiring work, one that smartly calls bullshit on the places culture - radical subcultures included - stigmatize and misunderstand both maternity and queer family-making. With a fiercely vulnerable intelligence, Nelson leaves no area un-investigated, including her own heart. I know of no other book like this, and I know how crucially the culture needs it.”—Michelle Tea, author of *Valencia*

“In *The Argonauts*, Maggie Nelson turns ‘making the personal public’ into a romantic, intellectual wet dream. A gorgeous book, inventive, fearless, and full of heart.”—Kim Gordon, musician

“*The Argonauts* takes us on delicious journey into the real life intimacies and intricacies of queer love, sex, literature, and motherhood. Maggie Nelson’s honesty, intelligence, humor and great writing transform what society might deem a radical, non-traditional lifestyle into the new desirable. A fucking gem of a book that touched and tickled all my sweet spots.”—Annie Sprinkle

"Reading Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts* helped me to feel some things I’ve long thought about but hardly been able to express regarding the socialization of the maternal function, which is the dispersed, dispersive essence of the futurity we present to one another until one is not another anymore. There’s the violence I commit in making a claim for that futurity, and the violence I endure when that claim is granted. There’s the exhaustive sharing that takes form as writing. There’s the 'orgy of specificity' when the inexpressible is held and released in each expression ‘cause I just want to sing your name even when I don’t want to sing your name. There’s the love story buried in every 'I love you,' and in every 'I love you' there’s a contract for destruction and rebuilding. There’s *The Argonauts*, which is one of the greatest books I’ve ever read.”—Frederick Moten, poet and author of *In The Break*

"In the 17th century a book like Maggie Nelson’s *The Argonauts* might have been called an anatomy, by which I mean it’s a learned, quirky, open-hearted, often beautiful naming-of-parts—the parts, in this case, that compose the life of an unusually literate, wry, and intransigent 21st-century woman. Some of the memoirist’s topics are unprecedented. Merely by describing her works and days, Nelson—like a kind of female Voltaire—could be said to wage staunch battle against the as-yet-undead forces of banality, stupidity, prejudice, and moral sloth. Écraser l’infâme, indeed. But the greatest gift she offers here is the intellectual and emotional honesty with which she shares—without vanity or affectation--the marvels and vicissitudes of a deeply avant-garde life."—Terry Castle, author of *The Professor: A Sentimental Education*

“Every page made me think, reflect, argue, laugh and ultimately cry (for their happiness).”—Betsy Lerner, author of *The Bridge Ladies*

**End of Year Accolades**

[Best Books of 2016, Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/nov/26/best-books-of-2016-part-one) \* Favorite Books of 2016, *New* Statesman \* [Year in Reading, *New York Times*](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/12/19/books/review/25year-in-reading.html) *\** Year in Reading, *The Millions* \* [Best Books We Read in 2016, *Vox*](https://www.vox.com/2015/12/30/10683478/best-books-2015) \* Our Favorite Books of 2016, *Feministing* \* [Best Books of 2015, *Chicago Tribune*](http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/books/ct-prj-printers-row-picks-best-books-2015-20151210-story.html) \* Best Books of 2015, *Time Out New York* \* [100 Notable Books, *New York Times*](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/12/19/books/review/25year-in-reading.html) \* [Books We Loved in 2015, *New Yorker*](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/12/19/books/review/25year-in-reading.html)\* [Best of 2015, *San Francisco Chronicle*](http://www.sfchronicle.com/books/article/Best-of-2015-100-recommended-books-6698121.php) \* Best Nonfiction of 2015, *Entropy* \* 50 Best Independent Books of 2015, *Flavorwire \** Best Books of the Year, *Irish Times \** Best of the Year-Nonfiction, *Kirkus \** Best Books of 2015, *Los Angeles Magazine* \* [David Ulin: the best books of 2015, *Los Angeles Times*](http://beta.latimes.com/books/la-ca-jc-1213-ulin-year-end-20151213-story.html) \* Best Books of 2015, *National Post (Canada)* \* [Best Books of 2015, *NPR*](https://apps.npr.org/best-books-2015/) \* Best of the Year (front cover), *Publishers Weekly \** The Globe 100, *The Globe & Mail (UK)* \* [Best Biography/Memoir of 2015, *The Guardian (UK)*](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/dec/03/best-biography-memoir-2015-review) \* Holiday Reading Recommendations, *The Kenyon Review \** Year in Reading: Meaghan O'Connell and Bijan Stephen, *The Millions \** Best Books of 2015, *Lit Hub*

**Pub and Pre-Pub Accolades**

*New York Times* bestseller

[Editor’s Choice, *New York Times Book Review*](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/17/books/review/editors-choice.html)

[May 2016 Pick for Our Shared Shelf,Emma Watson’s book club](http://ew.com/article/2016/04/27/emma-watson-book-club-argonauts-maggie-nelson/)

[*Paris Review* Staff Pick, January 2015](https://www.theparisreview.org/blog/2015/01/23/staff-picks-country-life-city-life-future-life/)

“Hot Topic” in *Publishers Weekly,* April 23, 2015

*Publishers Weekly* Best Summer Book 2015

Starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus*

Featured *BuzzFeed Books* choice for the summer (150K subscribers)

*Los Angeles Magazine,* “6 Books You Need to Read This May”

*Boston Glatelobe* Suggested Summer Read

*Harper’s Bazaar* Summer Pick (chosen by Miranda July)

*NPR* on-air recommendation for Best Books of Summer

*Powell’s* Staff Pick, “Book of Now”

[*New York Magazine,* “Best Books of 2015” (mhttps://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/books/review/maggie-nelsons-the-argonauts.htmlidyear)](http://www.vulture.com/2015/07/best-books-of-2015-so-far.html)

*Business Insider,* “12 Non-fiction Must-Read Books of the Summer”

*Huffington Post,* “9 Books About The Sweet (And Not-So-Sweet) Realities Of Motherhood”

*Christian Science Monitor,* “3 Powerful Literary Takes On Motherhood”