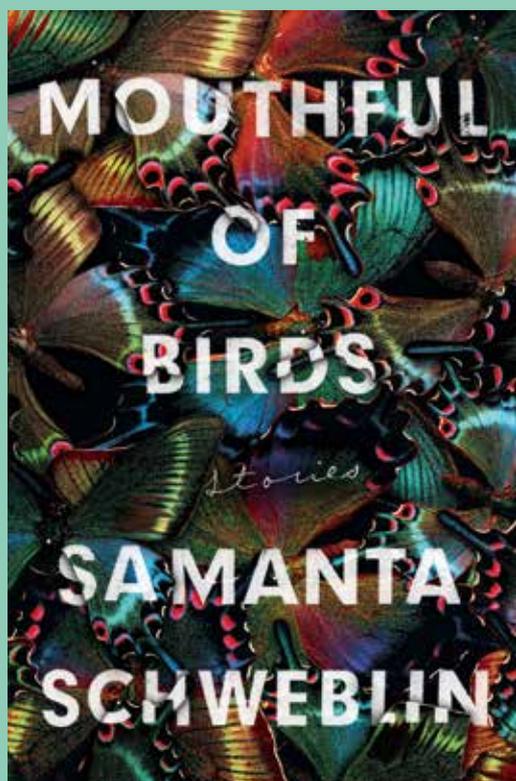




# Reader's Guide



Other books by Samantha Schwebelin  
*Fever Dream* (2017)

## Mouthful of Birds Samantha Schwebelin

Translated by Megan McDowell

Oneworld

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About the author	Samanta Schweblin was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1978. She is the author of three story collections that have now been translated into 20 languages. The recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Juan Rulfo Story Prize, her debut novel <i>Fever Dream</i> was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize 2017. She lives in Berlin.
About the translator	Megan McDowell was born in Mississippi, USA, in October 1978. She has translated books by many contemporary South American and Spanish authors. Her translations have been published in <i>The New Yorker</i> , <i>Harper's</i> and <i>The Paris Review</i> . She received the 2013 PEN Award for Writing in Translation. She lives in Santiago, Chile.
About the book	The crunch of a bird's wing. Abandoned by the roadside, newlywed brides scream with rage as they're caught in the headlights of a passing car. A cloud of butterflies, so beautiful it smothers.  Unearthly and unexpected, <i>Mouthful of Birds</i> is a collection of stories that burrow their way into the psyche with the feel of a sleepless night. Every shadow and bump in the dark takes on huge implications, leaving the pulse racing; blurring the line between the real and the strange.
What the judges thought	'Spritely and uncanny, this is a beautifully imagined and skilfully executed collection of short stories.'
Discussion points	<p>Many of the stories do not fully have a sense of finality – how did this make you feel when reading them?</p> <p>Some of the stories feature troubled relationships between parents and children – why do you think this is such a common feature in stories?</p> <p>What do you think it is about these stories that creates such intense tension and suspense for the reader?</p> <p>Several of the stories take place in isolated settings – do you think any of them would be different if they were set elsewhere?</p> <p>Schweblin is often praised for the luxurious detail in her writing, sweeping the reader up in her stories. Do you think the translation is successful in replicating this feeling of immersing the reader?</p>
Themed reading	<p><i>Blow-Up and Other Stories</i> by Julio Cortázar Considered one of the great modern Latin American authors, Cortázar's most celebrated book of stories explore the boundary where the everyday meets the mysterious, perhaps even the terrible.</p> <p><i>Metamorphosis and Other Stories</i> by Frank Kafka In <i>Metamorphosis</i>, a travelling salesman finds himself transformed into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. He must adjust to his new condition as he deals with others' reactions to what he has become.</p> <p><i>Nights at the Circus</i> by Angela Carter Sophie Fevers is part human, part swan, but Jack Walser is on a quest to discover the truth behind her identity. Dazzled by his love for her, and desperate for the scoop of a lifetime, he joins her in the circus on a magical tour of London and Russia.</p> <p><i>Die, My Love</i> by Ariana Harwicz In a forgotten patch of French countryside, a woman is battling her demons embracing exclusion yet wanting to belong, craving freedom whilst feeling trapped, yearning for family life but wanting to burn the house down. It's not a question of if a breaking point will be reached, but rather when and how violent a form will it take?</p>
Useful links	<p>Review of <i>Mouthful of Birds</i> in <i>The Guardian</i></p> <p>Unsettling Objects: On Samanta Schweblin's <i>Mouthful of Birds</i> by Lincoln Michel in <i>Bomb Magazine</i></p> <p>Review of <i>Mouthful of Birds</i> in <i>Electric Literature</i></p> <p>Review of <i>Mouthful of Birds</i> in <i>The Los Angeles Review of Books</i></p>