



news from

# Vintage Books

A Vintage Contemporaries Trade Paperback Original  
Available in Trade Paperback May 3, 2011

"This is a page-turner that will both haunt and spark discussion."  
—Kirkus Reviews

With striking, addictive prose and an unflinching eye trained upon the dangerous passions that boil beneath the placid minutiae of domestic life, Sarah Gardner Borden's debut novel delivers a white-hot portrait of sex, marriage, and parenthood for the twenty-first century.

## games to play after dark

a novel

sarah gardner  
borden

When Kate first meets Colin, she is a recent college graduate navigating the chaos of New York City. The attraction is instant, marked by a mutual erotic hunger. They quickly marry and settle in Connecticut. In their easy suburban routines they appear to be the perfect couple, but behind closed doors the same reckless abandon that drew them together now threatens to tear them apart. Their fights are in turns sexually exciting and damagingly ugly. But as aging and fatherhood mellow Colin, Kate loses her sparring partner and her uncontrolled compulsions must find new ways to manifest themselves—ways that just might prove to be the undoing of the life she has built for herself.

The deft examinations of sexuality and violence and the dark side of the American Dream invite comparisons to Mary Gaitskill and *Revolutionary Road*, but in the masterful hands of Sarah Gardner Borden, **GAMES TO PLAY AFTER DARK** becomes a stunningly singular novel from a compelling new voice in literary fiction.



GAMES TO PLAY AFTER DARK • Sarah Gardner Borden • A Vintage Books Trade Paperback Original  
On Sale: May 3, 2011 • \$14.95 • 336 pp • ISBN: 978-0-307-74139-0

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact:  
David Archer, Associate Publicist • 212-572-2331 • [darcher@randomhouse.com](mailto:darcher@randomhouse.com)



**sarah gardner borden** holds an MFA from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in a variety of journals, including *Open City*, *Willow Springs*, the *Chicago Reader*, *Other Voices*, *Literary Mama*, and the *New Haven Review*. Her story “At the Drake” was a winner in the 2004 AWP Intro Journal Awards. She lives in Brooklyn.

## advance praise for games to play after dark

“Sarah Gardner Borden’s exciting novel reads like a thriller, but it is the menacing nature of the very ordinary that is so scary here. She gets underneath the mundane details of everyday life—All that stuff! The chores! The driving!—and reveals the real mess our expectations and desires can get us into. Kate, at the center, is deftly and affectionately drawn. The writing is confident, sharp, and exhilarating. This is an impressive debut.”

—**Bobbie Ann Mason**, author of *In Country*

“Brilliantly structured and impossible to put down, *Games to Play After Dark* is the story of a young wife and mother who struggles earnestly, messily, even violently, to understand her own discontent with a seemingly ideal existence. The novel catches you up on Kate’s troubled past just as that past catches up with Kate, so by the end you feel the full force of that collision: powerful, hopeful, unforgettable.”

—**Robin Black**, author of *If I Loved You, I Would Tell You This*

“*Games to Play After Dark* at first disguises itself as a story of bright young love, until Kate and Colin’s marriage changes, delicately and inexorably, from a charmed union into something dark and somehow unavoidable. Sarah Gardner Borden’s debut is captivating and deftly rendered—a layered, disquieting examination of family life.”

—**Michelle Wildgen**, author of *But Not For Long* and *You’re Not You*

“An unsparingly honest portrait of one marriage’s devolution into train wreck. Borden covers it all—from the resentments that build over childcare to the sex that’s no longer fun. Reading *Games to Play After Dark* is as intimate an experience as reading someone’s diary.”

—**Lucinda Rosenfeld**, author of *I’m So Happy For You*

## scheduled appearances

May 4

Brooklyn, NY  
BookCourt

May 25

Newton, MA  
Newtonville Books  
with Holly LeCraw

June 7

Brooklyn, NY  
powerHouse Arena  
with Haley Tanner

June 24

New York, NY  
KGB Bar

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