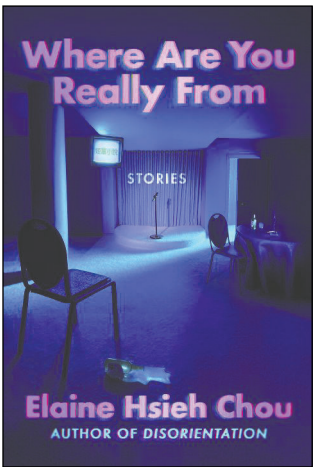


Book review: Chou dazzles in short story collection 'Where Are You Really From'

BY ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

An awkward adolescent girl travels from the United States to visit her grandmother and other relatives in Taipei, where she becomes obsessed by her older girl cousin and the bizarre fantasy of cooking and eating a woman who works in the dumpling store downstairs.

An American au pair goes to Paris to find herself and runs into her twin — a woman who looks exactly like her, and even shares her first name, but has the French style and social life she lacks. The American admires her French doppelganger, who with her red lipstick and not-too-



Penguin/AP photo

"WHERE ARE YOU REALLY FROM" BY ELAINE HSIEH CHOU

white sneakers “knew exactly what she wanted and what she didn’t. She was who I had always wanted to be.”

Author Elaine Hsieh Chou dazzles with these

rich, highly original and sometimes shocking stories in her collection of fiction, “Where Are You Really From.” Chou wanders in and out of a kind of magic realism, exploring our capability for self-deception and cruelty.

The book containing six distinct short stories and a much longer novella about a writer’s affair with a married artist, “Casualties of Art,” follows Chou’s successful 2022 debut novel, “Disorientation.” That earlier book was a New York Times Editors’ Choice Book, and a finalist for both the New York

Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award Finalist and the Thurber Prize.

In Chou’s latest book, a short story called “Mail Order Bride” tells of a future United States where all immigration has been banned, except for brides purchased online and shipped from abroad.

Frank, a widower in Orange County, California, orders a young Taiwanese bride who arrives at his home via express shipping in a ventilated cardboard box and carrying no belongings, only the wedding dress she wears.

LATTE

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the world. It now operates in 88 markets.

— \$36.2 billion: Starbucks' net revenue in its 2024 fiscal year, which ended last September. Starbucks' net revenue was \$4.1 billion in 2003, when the Pumpkin Spice Latte first went on sale.

— 33.8%: Increase in mentions of pumpkin spice on U.S. menus between the fall of 2014 and the fall of 2024, according to Technomic.

— 4: Number of spices in McCormick's Pumpkin Pie Spice. They are cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and allspice.

— 2022: The year Mer-

riam-Webster added “pumpkin spice” to the dictionary. Less common, it said, is the term “pumpkin pie spice.”

— 3: The Pumpkin Spice Latte was the third seasonal beverage introduced by Starbucks, after the Eggnog Latte and the Peppermint Mocha.

— Sept. 8: Date the Pumpkin Spice Latte went on sale in 2015. The on-sale date has edged earlier since then.

— 24%: Amount foot traffic rose at U.S. Starbucks last year on Aug. 22, the day the Pumpkin Spice Latte went on sale, according to Placer.ai. The company compared traffic that Thursday to the previous eight Thursdays.

Public Notice

In accordance with Chapter 65A.080, KRS 424.220 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, the adopted Budget, Financial Statement and most recent Audit of the Shelby County Public Health Taxing District may be inspected by the public at the Shelby County Health Department located at 1020 Henry Clay Street, Shelbyville, KY 40065 during normal office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. September 1st thru September 15th 2025. The adopted budget can also be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government's public portal website, http://kydlgweb.ky.gov/entities/16_SpgHome.cfm

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