

# Enfermario

Gabriela Torres Olivares

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What does it mean to be? And to be different? Gabriela Torres Olivares poses these questions as she writes in the space between her characters' bodies, desires, and experiences. With a constantly shifting gaze, these fifteen stories explore the profundity of otherness across beings and quasi beings, seeking out both discomfort and common ground. In her *Enfermario*, part infirmary and part bestiary, Gabriela Torres Olivares invites us into her characters' worlds only to defamiliarize the quotidian and thus challenge our most basic preconceptions.

Jennifer Donovan's translation introduces Gabriela Torres Olivares' border-defying stories to English-language readers for the first time.

## PRAISE FOR *Enfermario*

"The playful darkness that looms over Gabriela Torres Olivares' writing is vivid and breathtaking, both dreamlike and weirdly alive, like a bedtime story whispered in the ear. *Enfermario* is a miniature gem of modern Mexican gothic. —Pola Oloixarac, author of *Savage Theories*

"Gabriela Torres Olivares is one of my favorite living writers; her sentences are devastating, beautiful, utterly desired, and then, are like the skin that needs to be shed off in cycles. After all, we are reptilian. The words are wounds and portals, and her narratives somehow puncture into the heart of what it means to be a human among other humans, monstrous, touching, apparitions of each other and of the disappearing myths that are still embedded in our bloodstream. The stories in *Enfermario* exist somehow as the sediment for our current condition, as the evidence of our sad secrets, and as the inflections of our uncanny and everyday cognition." —Janice Lee, author of *The Sky Isn't Blue* and *Reconsolidation*

## ABOUT Gabriela Torres Olivares

Gabriela Torres Olivares was born in Monterrey, México. She is the author of three collections of short stories: *Enfermario* (2010), which *Reforma* named as one of the Best Books of 2010; *Incompletario* (2007); and *Están Muertos* (2004). Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals, including *Vice*, *Pic-Nic*, *Playboy*, and *Luvina*. She received a 2016 grant from the National Fund for Culture and Arts to complete a novel.

## ABOUT Jennifer Donovan

Jennifer Donovan is an interdisciplinary artist based in the Tijuana-San Diego border. Her work addresses the ontology of boundaries and liminal spaces through presence/absence phenomena. She works between literary (writing and translation) and visual practices to grapple with power relationships embedded in bodies, language, and geography: borders that each of us constantly negotiates.

*Enfermario*

Gabriela Torres Olivares

trans. Jennifer Donovan

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