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The Annotated Nightstand: What Anna Moschovakis is Reading Now and Next

Books by Saidiya Hartman, Annie Ernaux, Jenny Diski, and more

Anna Moschovakis is one of those unicorns in the literary world who manages not only to do it all, but do it well—more than well. She is a poet, translator, novelist, critic, publisher, professor, and community organizer. Her translation from French of David Diop’s *At Night All Blood Is Black* won the 2020 Booker Prize. Her poetry collection *You and Three Others Are Approaching a Lake* won the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. She helped found the small press darling Ugly Duckling Presse, prized for its translations, experimental works, and beautiful letter-pressed covers.



Monique Wittig, *Les Guérillères* (trans. David Le Vay)

The feminist thinker’s 1969 novel is one that continues to be read and adored. The original translation into English was [reviewed in the *New York Times*](#) in 1971. In her review, Sally Beauman synthesizes the feminist thinker’s novel thusly: “Her women are les guérillères, a strange, fierce warrior tribe. They live in fortified camps; they fight with knives, rifles, machine guns, rocket launchers. They worship the sun goddess, the circle, the vulva. They trace their descent from Boadicea, Penthesilia, Hippolyta, the Amazons. They have rites in which they anoint their bodies, sing sacred chants, drink wine. They taste drugs and spend the night orgiastically in each other’s arms. For food, they kill animals. For fun (and for survival) they kill men.”