

# BULTURE BLUB

18

edited by mallory rice

# troian bellisario

JUNE MARKS THE start of the second season of ABC Family's Pretty Little Liars. and that means more hookups, more mysteries, and more torture from our favorite frenemy, "A." Troian Bellisario, a real life music buff who plays feisty perfectionist Spencer Hastings on the show, reveals her top tracks.

#### Icd soundsystem "DANCE YRSELF CLEAN"

This song is what dancing should be if you truly dance-leave it all out there. I did, and I had whiplash for a few days.

## local natives "AIRPLANES"

The lyrics in this song are kick-you-in-theuterus accurate about breaking up.

## elliott smith

"NEEDLE IN THE HAY" I love his sweet guitar melodies and venomous lyrics. It's so brutal and amazing.

## bright eyes "FIREWALL"

Conor Oberst is my favorite songwriter. I need a good melody, but for me it's all about lyrics. edith piaf
"SOUS LE CIEL DE
PARIS" (UNDER
THE SKY OF PARIS)
This is my Sunday
staple: I put this on,
make French toast,
and have a good day.

## nina simone

"FOUR WOMEN"
It's about these four different women through time and she puts amazing emotion and personality behind each one of them.

### regina spektor "APRÈS MOI"

As you can tell I'm a sucker for totally dramatic, epic music. I lip-sync and pretend I can totally sing along with her in Russian.

## the white stripes

This was one of the first songs I learned on the guitar. Jack White totally takes it to another galaxy.

## arcade fire

"NEON BIBLE"
I slept out on Wilshire
[Boulevard] so I could
go to their secret show
and I still haven't taken
off the wistband.

## radiohead

"TALK SHOW HOST" Sexiest song ever. There is nothing else that comes close to it for me—that's it.



## helen phillips

In And Yet They Were Happy, Helen Phillips's debut collection of two-page fables, a drunk girl tells her drunk friends about her imaginary mermaid family while they puke behind a nightclub, people ponder the origin of nine oranges on a highway from the overpass above, and Bob Dylan, Noah (of "The Ark" fame), and several Helens all make appearances. Mallory Rice, a former student of Phillips at Brooklyn College, talks to the writer about her experimental fiction.

HOW DID THE BOOK'S STRUCTURE DEVELOP? I set a challenge for myself to write one story every day for about a twoyear period. I had been

working on a novel

and I was feeling very bogged down in the

process, because you have the idea and then you spend a really long time working with it, and by the time you're well into it, the idea feels stale. So I wanted to do a project where I could feel creative and excited all the time

HELEN PHILLIPS'S HUSBAND, THE ARTIST ADAM THOMPSON, MADE A WILD AND CLEVER BOOK TRAILER FOR AND YET THEY WERE HAPPY. YOUTUBE.COM/

NYLONMAGAZINETV/#BOOKCLUB

#### DID YOU HOPE TO DISCOVER A TOPIC FOR A NOVEL THAT WOULDN'T BECOME STALE? That wasn't a goal. I was very interested in what the

sum of the text in all these pieces would be My [initial] goal was to write with as much variety as possible. As time went on, I found these sections and themes emerging out of it. I wrote this book when I was engaged to the man who is now my husband. It was a very emotionally intense time for me and I think in our culture, we have this vision of the radiant, blushing bride that doesn't allow for a lot of nuance in that experience. Part of this was me feeling my way through this milestone that I didn't feel there were a lot of relevant roadmaps for.

I ALSO SENSED AN UNEASE ABOUT LIVING IN A CITY. I grew up in the mountains in Colorado and now I live in Brooklyn. I feel like a lot of my writing arises from the way that my life is divided into these two sections—this sort of mountainous, pastoral time and then this very rich, urban time.

#### YOUR STYLE SUGGESTS THAT YOU READ A LOT OF POETRY. DO YOU? I used to. When

I was 13 years old I made this New Year's resolution that I would write a poem and read a poem every day. So between the ages of 13 and 21, I did. It was really neurotic [laughs]. I wrote books and books of really bad poetry. There are a lot of forest fires in Colorado right now and my parents recently asked what I would want them to grab if the house burns. I really thought that maybe they could leave my poetry books [laughs]—that would be fine with me.

# 50 americans then asked them each to select one that resonate with them and evaluin why. The result. Pohart

CONTROVERSY ALWAYS FOLLOWED Robert Mapplethorpe around, even after his death. Just months after the legendary photographer's passing in 1989, at the age of 42, a dispute erupted over federal funding for the arts, and a bunch of boneheaded politicians came together to demonize Mapplethorpe's provocative art, sexual orientation, and pretty much everything else about him. Dick Armey, a Republican from Texas, went so far as to call a Mapplethorpe exhibition "morally reprehensible trash."

More than 20 years later, Mapplethorpe's place in the art world pantheon is assured. But people have long memories, and his name is as likely to bring up old shouting matches as it is to evoke his work: iconic black-and-white portraiture, erotic and otherwise; perfectly composed floral still lifes; American scenes rendered sublime. When it came time for Sean Kelly, whose New York City gallery represents Mapplethorpe's estate, to stage a new exhibition, he found 50 Americans, one in each state, and presented them with a selection of Mapplethorpe's photos. He

then asked them each to select one that resonated with them and explain why. The result, Robert Mapplethorpe: 50 Americans, opening this

month, is a revealing insight into the artist's work.

"I had this strong sense that Mapplethorpe was known for a very small percentage of his oeuvre, which is incredibly broad," explains Kelly. The selections and reactions—from a fisherman in Alaska to a pilot in Georgia—are powerful and personal, and, perhaps surprisingly, none of them seem too worried about all the nudlit, Kelly's not surprised. "People don't give Americans nearly enough credit. They don't give a damn about that." PAUL CAINE

skny.com





NYLONMAG.COM

troian bellisario photographed by <u>laesung lee</u> stylist: <u>taylor jacobson</u>, hair: <u>stephanie hobgood</u> at exclusive artists using rene furferer, makeup: <u>gregory arti</u> at exclusive artists using ma.a. cosmetics, remper by <u>janey</u> lopsty vintage, helen phillips <u>llustrated by missy moculouph</u>, <u>50 americane provided by reprint magnituders fundation</u>. FROM FAR RIGHT: <u>danger perioolo</u>, <u>1983</u>; <u>ausan sarandon and eva amurri</u>, <u>1988</u>, used with permission.

122