

CLEIS PRESS P.O. BOX 14697  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114  
WWW.CLEISPRESS.COM



TELEPHONE • (415) 575-4700  
FAX • (415) 575-4705  
EMAIL • CLEIS@CLEISPRESS.COM

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Diane Levinson, Publicity Director  
(800) 780-2279  
dlevinson@cleispress.com

“Stephen Elliott knocks my fishnet stockings off.”  
— Audrey Niffenegger\*

## **My Girlfriend Comes to the City and Beats Me Up**

by Stephen Elliott

Fiction or memoir? Stephen Elliott’s blistering new collection inhabits a mysterious area in between. As with all his work, these stories have the raw ring of truth filtered through Elliott’s downbeat poetic sensibility. No subject is too controversial, no image too taboo to put to paper in these brilliant first-person narratives. Acclaimed by the *New York Times*, Elliott here confirms his status as a major young writer of a kind of literary fiction that recalls the work of Genet and Bukowski.

### **Advance praise:**

\*“Stephen Elliott knocks my fishnet stockings off. His work is strange and really smart. And sad. And full of the tenderness that comes when you realize you are on your own in the world. This is alarming and terrific stuff.”— Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler’s Wife*

“Any true love story, if told with the urgency and animal intelligence of love, isn’t for the fainthearted. On every page of this profound, distilled work of art, Stephen Elliott wrestles with the unknown and unspoken essences of love, and articulates that unknown so beautifully, with such clear-eyed fearlessness — imagine a glass of pure water with one drop of blood hanging in its center, about to dissolve — then drink it and be transformed.”— Nick Flynn, author of *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*

**Praise for *Happy Baby*:**

“*Happy Baby* is surely the most intelligent and beautiful book ever written about juvenile detention centers, sadomasochism, and drugs.”

—Curtis Sittenfeld, *The New York Times*

“A most impressive little novel, heartbreakingly and bewilderingly alive in a way most bigger books can’t even imagine.” —Andrew O’Hehir, *Salon.com*

**About the author:**

Stephen Elliott is the author of five books including *Happy Baby*, a finalist for the New York Public Library’s Young Lion Award as well as a best book of 2004 in *Salon.com*, *Newsday*, *Chicago New City*, the *Journal News*, and the *Village Voice*. His work has been featured in *Esquire*, the *New York Times*, *GQ*, *Best American Non-Required Reading*, *Best American Erotica*, and *Best Sex Writing 2006*. He is the founder of the Progressive Reading Series and the executive director of LitPAC, a literary political action committee. He lives in San Francisco and can be found on the Web at [www.stephenelliott.com](http://www.stephenelliott.com).

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Diane Levinson, Cleis Press (800) 780-2279 [dlevinson@cleispress.com](mailto:dlevinson@cleispress.com)  
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