

## Rivka Galchen

### On behalf of The Clegg Agency

**Rivka Galchen**'s 2008 first novel *ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES* and her 2014 story collection *AMERICAN INNOVATIONS* were both *New York Times* Best Books of the Year. She received her MD from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. 'Conspicuously talented' (*Time*), Galchen lives in New York City.



*LITTLE LABOURS*, a compendium of observations, stories, lists, and brief essays about babies and literature, was published by 4th Estate in May 2017.

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## Publications

### Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
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**LITTLE  
LABORS**

2017

Fourth Estate

A droll and dazzling compendium of observations, stories, lists, and brief essays about babies.

One August day, a baby was born, or as it seemed to Rivka Galchen, a puma moved into her apartment. Her arrival felt supernatural, she seemed to come from another world. And suddenly, the world seemed ludicrously, suspiciously, adverbially sodden with meaning.

But Galchen didn't want to write about the puma. She had never been interested in babies, or in mothers before. Now everything seemed directly related to them and she specifically wanted to write about other things because it might mean she was really, covertly, learning something about babies, or about being near babies.

The result is *Little Labours*, a slanted enchanted miscellany. Galchen writes about babies in art (with wrongly shaped head) and babies in literature (rarer than dogs or abortions, often monstrous); about the effort of taking a passport photo for a baby not yet able to hold up her head and the frightening prevalence of orange as today's chic colour for baby gifts; about Frankenstein as a sort of baby and a baby as a sort of Godzillas. Varying in length from just a sentence or paragraph to a several-page story or essay, Galchen's puzzle pieces assemble into a shining, unpredictable, mordant picture of the ordinary-extraordinary nature of babies and literature. Anecdotal or analytic, each part opens up an odd and tender world of wonder.

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