

## JOURNAL ENTRY #11

*The Gill Man in Purgatory* is a collection of disparate pieces of short fiction. The first three stories are realistic depictions of characters in crisis. The second batch of three stories use elements of fantasy to serve their thematic aims. This third batch of stories focus on uncomfortable intimate family connections between husband & wife, parent & child.

Taken together with the previous six stories that you have read, what sort of conclusions can you now reach about the nature of this story collection? Take a moment to consider extra-literary information, such as the endorsements and bio on the book's cover, as well as the *San Jose Mercury News* article from January 2016. In what way do these "sources" inform your reading?

Write without stopping for 25 minutes.

Stories: Not Talking About the Moon 95, The Art of Divination 107, Middle of Nowhere 111