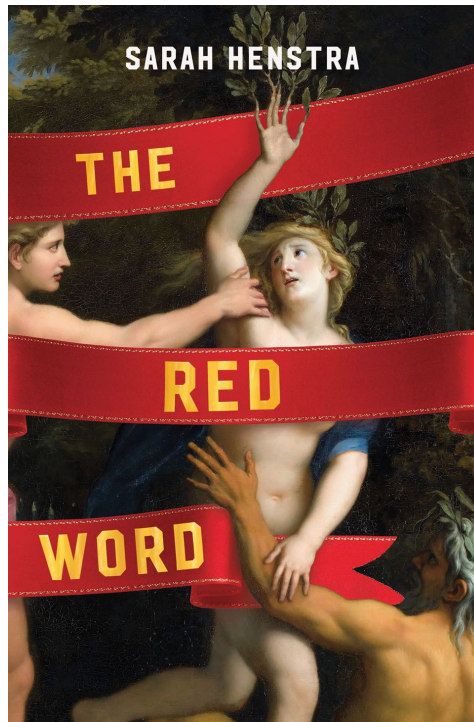


# Briefly Noted

 [newyorker.com/magazine/2018/06/04/men-and-apparitions-the-red-word-go-tell-the-crocodiles-and-reporter](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/06/04/men-and-apparitions-the-red-word-go-tell-the-crocodiles-and-reporter)

The New Yorker

May 28, 2018



**The Red Word**, by Sarah Henstra (*Black Cat*). Set at an unnamed Ivy League college in the nineties, this novel follows a student named Karen as she moves between two worlds: a queer-friendly, women-centric home that she shares with acutely intelligent activists, and the drug-ridden, misogynistic fraternity where she sleeps with one boy and is in love with another. When her housemates try to expose the behavior of the frat, Karen feels torn, and is terrified of the repercussions. Henstra draws on Greek mythology to comment on contemporary issues—how assault can take on ambiguity and how the internalization of rape culture convolutes gender politics, to the point where constructive conversation is nearly impossible.