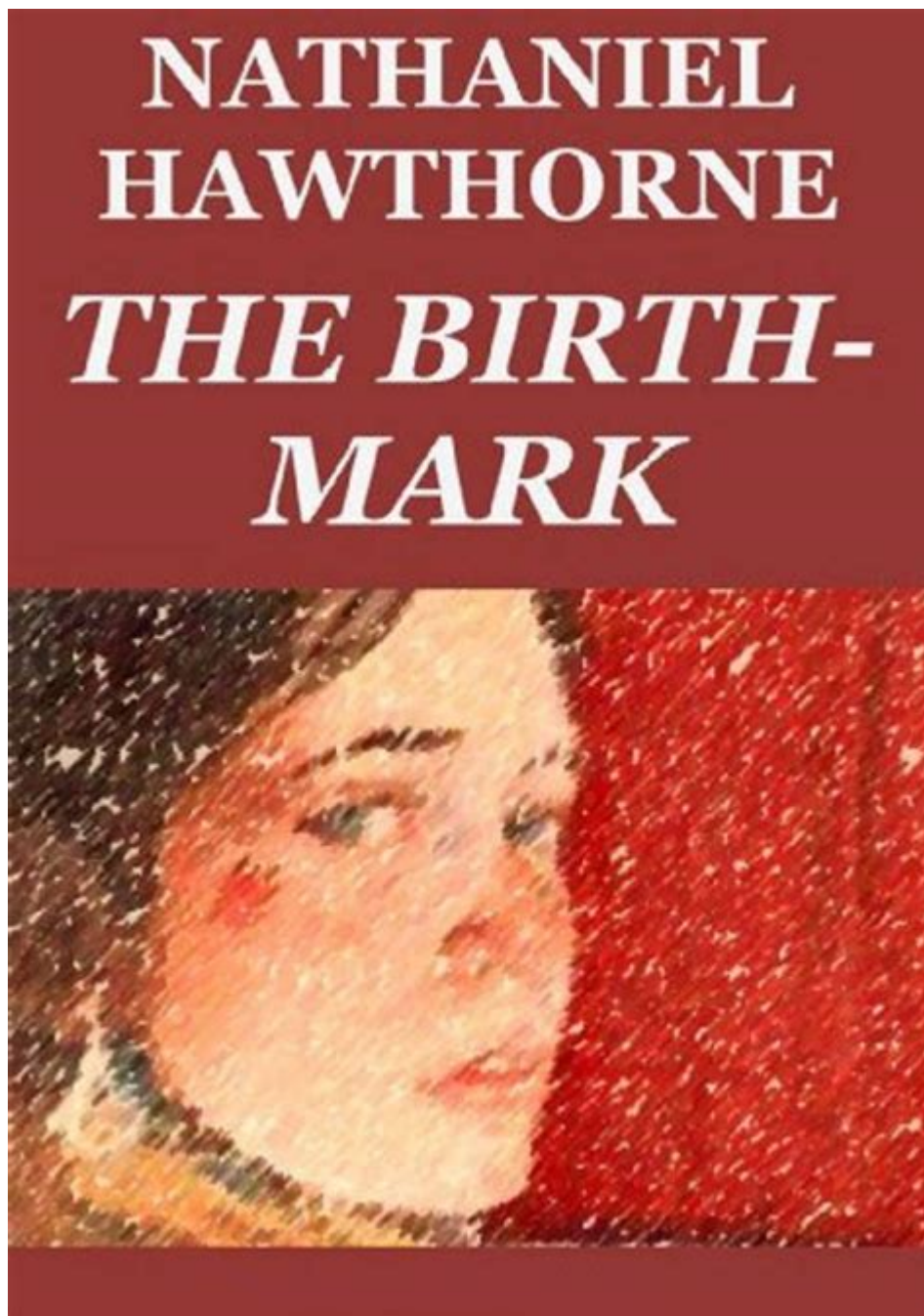


The Birthmark



The Birthmark: Exploring the Mystery and Meaning Behind These Unique Skin Markings

Birthmarks. Those intriguing, sometimes vibrant, sometimes subtle patches of skin that grace some

individuals from the moment they enter the world. They're more than just cosmetic features; they're a source of fascination, mystery, and even folklore. This comprehensive guide delves into the world of birthmarks, exploring their causes, types, treatments, and the cultural significance they hold. Whether you're curious about your own birthmark or simply fascinated by the dermatological wonders of the human body, this post offers a wealth of information.

Understanding the Science Behind Birthmarks

Birthmarks, also known as congenital nevi, are typically present at birth or appear shortly after. They arise from irregularities in the development of melanocytes, the cells responsible for producing melanin, the pigment that gives skin its color. The precise cause of most birthmarks isn't fully understood, but genetic factors, environmental influences during pregnancy, and hormonal changes are all suspected to play a role.

Types of Birthmarks: A Diverse Spectrum

Birthmarks manifest in various forms, each with its own unique characteristics:

1. Vascular Birthmarks: A Matter of Blood Vessels

These birthmarks arise from abnormal blood vessel development. Common types include:

Hemangiomas: These are often bright red and raised, growing rapidly in infancy before gradually shrinking.

Port-Wine Stains: Flat, reddish-purple marks that are usually permanent and don't fade.

Telangiectasias: These are small, dilated blood vessels that appear as fine red lines or spider-like patterns.

2. Pigmented Birthmarks: A Play of Melanin

These birthmarks result from an overgrowth of melanocytes:

Mongolian Spots: These bluish-gray marks are common in babies with darker skin tones and typically fade over time.

Café-au-lait Spots: Light brown patches that can range in size. Multiple café-au-lait spots may be associated with certain genetic conditions.

Nevus of Ota: Bluish-gray patches usually found on the face.

Moles (Nevi): Common pigmented spots that can be flat or raised. Regular monitoring is important as some moles can become cancerous.

3. Other Types of Birthmarks

Beyond vascular and pigmented birthmarks, other types exist, including:

Congenital Melanocytic Nevi (CMN): Larger pigmented birthmarks that warrant close medical observation due to a slightly increased risk of melanoma.

Becker Nevi: Usually appear during puberty, these are dark brown or black patches with increased hair growth.

Cultural Significance and Mythology Surrounding Birthmarks

Throughout history, birthmarks have been imbued with various meanings and interpretations. In some cultures, they're considered signs of good luck, representing a connection to a past life or a spiritual significance. In other cultures, they might be seen as curses or omens. Many myths and legends associate birthmarks with specific events or personalities from the individual's past life or even the lives of their ancestors. This rich tapestry of cultural belief highlights the deep-seated human fascination with these unique markings.

Treatment Options for Birthmarks

The need for treatment depends on several factors, including the type of birthmark, its location, and its size. While many birthmarks are harmless and fade naturally, others may require medical intervention. Laser therapy is a common treatment for vascular birthmarks, helping to reduce their appearance. Surgical removal might be considered for certain types of birthmarks, especially if they're large, cosmetically undesirable, or pose a health risk. It's crucial to consult a dermatologist to determine the most appropriate course of action.

When to Seek Medical Attention

While most birthmarks are benign, it's essential to monitor them for any changes in size, shape, color, or texture. Any bleeding, itching, or crusting should be evaluated by a doctor. Regular check-ups with a dermatologist are vital, particularly for larger birthmarks or those with a family history of skin cancer. Early detection is key in managing any potential health concerns associated with certain types of birthmarks.

Conclusion

Birthmarks, these enigmatic markings on our skin, are a fascinating blend of science and culture. Their origins, diverse appearances, and varying cultural interpretations make them a subject of ongoing study and wonder. While some require medical attention, many are simply unique features that add to the beauty of human diversity. Understanding the different types, potential risks, and treatment options ensures responsible care and appreciation for these fascinating skin markings.

FAQs

1. Are birthmarks hereditary? While the exact cause isn't fully understood, genetic factors are believed to play a role in the development of some types of birthmarks. However, they don't always follow a predictable hereditary pattern.
2. Can birthmarks be prevented? Currently, there's no known way to prevent the development of most birthmarks.
3. Will my child's birthmark fade? The likelihood of a birthmark fading depends on its type. Some, like hemangiomas, often regress over time, while others, like port-wine stains, are usually permanent.
4. Are all birthmarks safe? Most birthmarks are harmless, but some, like large congenital melanocytic nevi, carry a slightly increased risk of melanoma. Regular monitoring by a dermatologist is crucial.
5. What is the best treatment for a port-wine stain? Laser therapy is the most common and effective treatment for port-wine stains, although multiple sessions may be needed. The results vary depending on the individual and the specific type of laser used.

the birthmark: The Birthmark (A Dark Tale of Love & Obsession) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2023-11-28 Nathaniel Hawthorne's 'The Birthmark' is a haunting tale that delves deeply into the themes of love and obsession. Set against the backdrop of 18th century New England, this short story showcases Hawthorne's masterful use of symbolism and allegory. The main characters, Aylmer and Georgiana, navigate the fine line between love and perfection, leading to a chilling climax that challenges societal norms and expectations. The lyrical prose and atmospheric descriptions in 'The Birthmark' create a sense of unease and foreboding, making it a standout piece in Hawthorne's body of work. This gothic tale's exploration of human nature and the consequences of unchecked ambition is both timeless and thought-provoking. Through the lens of this dark narrative, readers are prompted to reflect on the nature of love and the dangers of pursuing an unattainable ideal. Nathaniel Hawthorne's keen insight and psychological depth shine through in 'The Birthmark', making it a must-read for those interested in exploring the complexities of human relationships and the pursuit of perfection.

the birthmark: *The Birth-Mark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2017-02-21 Aylmer is a brilliant and recognized scientist and philosopher who has dropped his focus from his career and experiments to

marry the beautiful Georgiana (who is physically perfect except for a small red birthmark in the shape of a hand on her cheek). As the story progresses, Aylmer becomes unnaturally obsessed with the birthmark on Georgiana's cheek. One night, he dreams of cutting the birthmark out of his wife's cheek and then continuing all the way to her heart. He does not remember this dream until Georgiana asks about what his sleep-talking meant. When Aylmer remembers the details of his dream, Georgiana declares that she would risk her life having the birthmark removed from her cheek rather than to continue to endure Aylmer's horror and distress that comes upon him when he sees her.

the birthmark: *The Birthmark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2015-04-23 The Birthmark is a romantic short story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne that examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer*. It later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of short stories by Hawthorne published in 1846. Zephyr House is please to publish this beautiful edition of *The Birthmark*, also known as *The Birth-Mark* for its inaugural volume of one prose. One prose and its sister series, one poem and one play re-edition classic literature, poetry, and plays in historically accurate and easy to read formats. Our one prose and one poem series are thin and portable editions of classic short stories, novellas, and longer-length poems that are designed to travel with you. Our one play series publishes classic plays in 8.5x11 inch format, for easy use by cast and crews. Visit www.zephyrhouse.com for more volumes

the birthmark: *The Birth-Mark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2020-03-05 Aylmer is a brilliant and recognized scientist and philosopher who drops his focus from his career and experiments to marry the beautiful Georgiana (who is physically perfect except for a small red birthmark in the shape of a hand on her cheek). As the story progresses, Aylmer becomes unnaturally obsessed with the birthmark on Georgiana's cheek. One night, he dreams of cutting the birthmark out of his wife's cheek (removing it like scraping the skin from an apple) and then continuing all the way to her heart. He does not remember this dream until Georgiana asks about what his sleep-talking meant. When Aylmer remembers the details of his dream, Georgiana declares that she would rather risk her life having the birthmark removed from her cheek than to continue to endure Aylmer's horror and distress that comes upon him when he sees her. The following day, Aylmer deliberates and then decides to take Georgiana to the apartments where he keeps a laboratory. He glances at Georgiana casually and normally but can't help but shudder violently at seeing her imperfection; Aylmer's reaction causes her to faint. When she awakens, he treats her warmly and comforts her with some of his scientific concoctions but when he attempts to take a portrait of her, the image is blurred save for her birthmark revealing the disgust he has of it. He experiments some more and describes some of the successes to her but as he questions how she is feeling, Georgiana begins to suspect that Aylmer has been experimenting on her the entire time without her knowledge and consent. One day, she follows him into his laboratory, and on seeing her there, Aylmer accuses her of not trusting him and says that having her birthmark in the room will foil his efforts. She professes complete trust in him but demands that he inform her of his experiments. He agrees and reveals that his current experiment is his last attempt to remove the birthmark, and Georgiana vows to take the potion, regardless of any danger it poses to her.

the birthmark: ***The Birthmark*** Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2016-04-17 *The Birth-Mark* is a romantic short story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne that examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer*. It later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of short stories by Hawthorne published in 1846. Plot summary Aylmer is a brilliant and recognized scientist and philosopher who has dropped his focus from his career and experiments to marry the beautiful Georgiana (who is physically perfect except for a small red birthmark in the shape of a hand on her cheek). As the story progresses, Aylmer becomes unnaturally obsessed with the birthmark on Georgiana's cheek. One night, he dreams of cutting the birthmark out of his wife's cheek (removing it like scraping the skin from an apple) and then continuing all the way to her heart. He does not remember this dream until Georgiana asks about what his sleep-talking meant. When Aylmer remembers the details of his dream, Georgiana

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the birthmark: *The Birthmark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2018-05-03 Aylmer is a brilliant and recognized scientist and philosopher who has dropped his focus from his career and experiments to marry the beautiful Georgiana (who is physically perfect except for a small red birthmark in the shape of a hand on her cheek). As the story progresses, Aylmer becomes unnaturally obsessed with the birthmark on Georgiana's cheek. One night, he dreams of cutting the birthmark out of his wife's cheek (removing it like scraping the skin from an apple) and then continuing all the way to her heart. He does not remember this dream until Georgiana asks about what his sleep-talking meant. When Aylmer remembers the details of his dream, Georgiana declares that she would risk her life having the birthmark removed from her cheek rather than to continue to endure Aylmer's horror and distress that comes upon him when he sees her.

the birthmark: The Birthmark (Illustrated) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2019-07-30 A single dream is more powerful than a thousand realities. — Nathaniel Hawthorne - An American Classic! - Includes Images of Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Life

the birthmark: *Mosses from an Old Manse* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1854

the birthmark: *The Birth-mark* Susan Howe, 1993-04 A stimulating examination of early American literature

the birthmark: The Birth-Mark (Annotated) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2018-12-17 The Birth-Mark is a short story by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne. The tale examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer* and later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of Hawthorne's short stories published in 1846.

the birthmark: *The Birth-Mark* Hawthorne Nathaniel, 2016-08-03 The Birth-Mark is a romantic short story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne that examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer*. It later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of short stories by Hawthorne published in 1846.

the birthmark: *The Birth-Mark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2017-07-25 How is this book unique? Font adjustments & biography included Unabridged (100% Original content) Illustrated About The Birth-Mark by Nathaniel Hawthorne The Birthmark is a romantic story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne that examines obsession with human perfection. Plot Summary: In the latter part of the last century there lived a man of science, an eminent proficient in every branch of natural philosophy, who not long before our story opens had made experience of a spiritual affinity more attractive than any chemical one. He had left his laboratory to the care of an assistant, cleared his fine countenance from the furnace smoke, washed the stain of acids from his fingers, and persuaded

a beautiful woman to become his wife. In those days when the comparatively recent discovery of electricity and other kindred mysteries of Nature seemed to open paths into the region of miracle, it was not unusual for the love of science to rival the love of woman in its depth and absorbing energy. The higher intellect, the imagination, the spirit, and even the heart might all find their congenial aliment in pursuits which, as some of their ardent votaries believed, would ascend from one step of powerful intelligence to another, until the philosopher should lay his hand on the secret of creative force and perhaps make new worlds for himself. We know not whether Aylmer possessed this degree of faith in man's ultimate control over Nature. He had devoted himself, however, too unreservedly to scientific studies ever to be weaned from them by any second passion. His love for his young wife might prove the stronger of the two; but it could only be by intertwining itself with his love of science, and uniting the strength of the latter to his own.

the birthmark: Buddy Booby's Birthmark Evan Ducker, 2006-01-01 A young booby bird, born with an unusual birthmark, teaches the Galapagos Islands animals that it's not important what you look like but what comes from the heart.

the birthmark: *The Wives of the Dead* Натаниель Готорн, 2021-12-02

the birthmark: The Birthmark Beth Montgomery, 2006 In *The Birthmark*, Text Publishing's first YA fiction release, debut novelist Beth Montgomery takes us to the fictional island of Tevua, north-east of Australia. *The Birthmark* interweaves the stories of two generations of Islanders- in 1942 young lovers Tepu and Edouwe struggle to survive under the brutal Japanese occupation; and in 2004 teenage friends Hector and Lily fight an altogether different battle with boredom, poverty and parental neglect. Both outsiders for different reasons, Lily and Hector spend their summer holiday roaming through the island's thick forests and around the coral pinnacles on the beach. They discover a Japanese sword, a relic of World War Two, and soon afterwards an angry Japanese soldier begins to haunt Lily's dreams. What does the ghostly soldier have to tell Lily? When she hears a woman screaming in her dreams, why does Lily's birthmark burn? Will the sword be used again? And can the younger generation somehow resolve the crimes of the past?

the birthmark: Started Early, Took My Dog Kate Atkinson, 2011-03-21 Tracy Waterhouse leads a quiet, ordered life as a retired police detective -- a life that takes a surprising turn when she encounters Kelly Cross, a habitual offender, dragging a young child through town. Both appear miserable and better off without each other -- or so decides Tracy, in a snap decision that surprises herself as much as Kelly. Suddenly burdened with a small child, Tracy soon learns her parental inexperience is actually the least of her problems, as much larger ones loom for her and her young charge. Meanwhile, Jackson Brodie, the beloved detective of novels such as *Case Histories*, is embarking on a different sort of rescue: that of an abused dog. Dog in tow, Jackson is about to learn, along with Tracy, that no good deed goes unpunished.

the birthmark: *The Birth-Mark (Illustrated)* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2021-10-04 *The Birth-Mark* is a short story by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne. The tale examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer* and later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of Hawthorne's short stories published in 1846.

the birthmark: *The Gate of Remembrance* Frederick Bligh Bond, 1918 Richard Beere, 1493-1524. Began Edgar Chapel; built crypt under Lady Chapel and dedicated it to St Joseph; built a chapel of the Holy Sepulchre at south end of nave; built the Loretto chapel; added vaulting under central tower and flying buttresses at east end of choir; built St Benignus' Church and rebuilt Tribunal. Richard Whiting, 1525-1539. Completed Edgar Chapel.--Wikipedia.

the birthmark: *Sam's Birthmark* Martha Griffin, Grant Griffin, 2013-02-28 A story about a boy with a birthmark and how every child in the world is unique and special in their own way.

the birthmark: Hawthorne's Short Stories Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2011-01-11 Twenty-four of the best short stories by one of the early masters of the form, in the definitive collection edited by acclaimed scholar Newton Arvin. Nathaniel Hawthorne was one of the greatest American writers of the nineteenth century, and some of his most powerful work was in the form of fable-like tales that make rich use of allegory and symbolism. The dark beauty and moral force of his imagination are

evident in such enduring masterpieces as *Young Goodman Brown*, in which a young man who believes he has witnessed a satanic initiation can never see his pious neighbors the same way again; "Rappaccini's Daughter," about a lovely young girl who has been raised in isolation among dangerous poisons; and *The Birthmark*, in which a scientist obsessed with perfection destroys the flaw that makes his otherwise flawless wife both beautiful and human.

the birthmark: *A Study Guide for Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Birthmark"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A Study Guide for Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Birthmark*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Short Stories for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research needs.

the birthmark: *The Birthmark* Bernard Wendelin, 2019-12-10 *The Birthmark* details an unusual, rare character with perceptive gifts. He is a surfer and an intellectual assisting Government agencies and the Police catch criminals.

the birthmark: Woman with Birthmark Hakan Nesser, 2009-04-14 International Bestseller Chief Inspector Van Veeteren is on the case once more in this breathless thriller of deception, blackmail, and cold murder. Van Veeteren and his associates are left bewildered by the curious murder of a man shot twice in the heart and twice below the belt. An utterly dull man, the only suspicious activity his surviving wife can report is a series of peculiar phone calls. Repeatedly the telephone would ring, offering no answer but an obscure pop song from the 1960s. This siren song would be linked to an identical murder, but the true connection remains unknown. With a cool, critical eye, Van Veeteren pursues his subject across the country, wading through outrageous leads and fruitless tips in this chilling mystery from master crime novelist Håkan Nesser.

the birthmark: *The Birthmark* A. A. M. Djelantik, 1997 From the jungles of Sulawesi to the streets of pre-war Amsterdam, *The Birthmark* tells the extraordinary story of a young Balinese prince as he grows up within the confines of a Balinese palace, faces culture shock during his education in Europe and embarks on a career as a roving doctor. Fighting disease and malnutrition in some of the remotest parts of the world, his account provides a fascinating evocation of a world long gone, as well as an insight into present-day Indonesia.--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

the birthmark: *The Birth-mark* Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2017-10-03 Nathaniel Hawthorne was born on July 4, 1804, in Salem, Massachusetts, where his birthplace is now a museum. William Hathorne, who emigrated from England in 1630, was the first of Hawthorne's ancestors to arrive in the colonies. After arriving, William persecuted Quakers. William's son John Hathorne was one of the judges who oversaw the Salem Witch Trials.

the birthmark: The Birth-Markannotated Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2021-08-21 *The Birth-Mark* is a short story by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne. The tale examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer* and later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of Hawthorne's short stories published in 1846

the birthmark: Tales and Sketches Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1904

the birthmark: Birthmarked Caragh M. O'Brien, 2011-04-28 A stunning adventure brought to life by a memorable heroine, this dystopian debut will have readers racing all the way to the dramatic finish. In the future, in a world baked dry by the harsh sun, there are those who live inside the walled Enclave and those, like sixteen-year-old Gaia Stone, who live outside. Following in her mother's footsteps Gaia has become a midwife, delivering babies in the world outside the wall and handing a quota over to be 'advanced' into the privileged society of the Enclave. Gaia has always believed this is her duty, until the night her mother and father are arrested by the very people they so loyally serve. Now Gaia is forced to question everything she has been taught, but her choice is simple: enter the world of the Enclave to rescue her parents, or die trying. Praise for *Birthmarked*: 'Readers who enjoy adventures with a strong heroine standing up to authority against the odds will enjoy this compelling tale.' School Library Journal 'Reminiscent of both 1984 and a Brave New

World, this gripping page-turner is a perfect intro to futuristic, dystopian fiction . . . Readers accompany the novel's inspiring heroine on an undertaking brimming with danger, intrigue, and romance.' Education.com Also by Caragh M. O'Brien: *Prized Promised*

the birthmark: Fanshawe Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2011-07-01 Hawthorne's first published novel, *Fanshawe* combines romantic themes with an engaging look at college life in the early nineteenth century. Critics have noted that the novel has strong autobiographical components and is likely a thinly fictionalized account of the writer's own experiences as a student at Bowdoin College.

the birthmark: The Dragon Birthmark Jennifer Phillips Russo, 2012-09-01 Eleven year old boy, Giovanni, feels smothered by three younger sisters and drowning in their Sea of Pink. Bored with ordinary life, his only escape is to journey into imaginary adventures, while longing for real companionship away from all things frilly. On his twelfth birthday, his eccentric Aunt bestowed upon him a mysterious gift that she thought he was finally old enough to handle; it changed his life forever. Immediately he was thrust into a curious world that has always been there in the shadows, protecting him, so that one day Giovanni might help protect them. For over one thousand years, his bloodline has been part of an elite order that has fought against evil, and now, ready or not, it was his turn. His new reality full of adventures with dragons, elves, and magic await his arrival. Evil forces threaten his family's existence and have already killed others. The Order needs his help. It is his birthright; his duty. How will he handle his new found responsibility and quest? Will he rise to the challenge or sink back into the Ordinary?

the birthmark: The Birthmark (Unabridged) Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2015-05-27 This carefully crafted ebook: *The Birthmark (Unabridged)* is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. Excerpt: One day, very soon after their marriage, Aylmer sat gazing at his wife with a trouble in his countenance that grew stronger until he spoke. Georgiana, said he, has it never occurred to you that the mark upon your cheek might be removed? (*The Birthmark*) *The Birthmark* deals with the husband's deeply negative obsession of his wife's outer appearances and what does that entail for these two young couples. The birthmark represents various things throughout the story. Two of the main representations are imperfection and mortality. American novelist and short story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne's (1804-1864) writing centers on New England, many works featuring moral allegories with a Puritan inspiration. Hawthorne has also written a few poems which many people are not aware of. His works are considered to be part of the Romantic movement and, more specifically, Dark romanticism. His themes often centre on the inherent evil and sin of humanity, and his works often have moral messages and deep psychological complexity.

the birthmark: Nathaniel Hawthorne - the Birth-Mark Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2016-09-14 *The Birth-Mark* is a romantic short story written by Nathaniel Hawthorne that examines obsession with human perfection. It was first published in the March 1843 edition of *The Pioneer*. It later appeared in *Mosses from an Old Manse*, a collection of short stories by Hawthorne published in 1846.

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the birthmark: THE BIRTHMARK (A Dark Tale of Love & Obsession) Nathaniel

Hawthorne, 2017-12-06 *The Birthmark* deals with the husband's deeply negative obsession of his wife's outer appearances and what does that entail for these two young couples. The birthmark represents various things throughout the story. Two of the main representations are imperfection and mortality. American novelist and short story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne's (1804-1864) writing centers on New England, many works featuring moral allegories with a Puritan inspiration. Hawthorne has also written a few poems which many people are not aware of. His works are considered to be part of the Romantic movement and, more specifically, Dark romanticism. His themes often centre on the inherent evil and sin of humanity, and his works often have moral messages and deep psychological complexity.

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the birthmark: Recursion Blake Crouch, 2020-03-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the bestselling author of *Dark Matter* and the *Wayward Pines* trilogy comes a relentless thriller about time, identity, and memory—his most mind-boggling, irresistible work to date, and the inspiration for Shondaland's upcoming Netflix film. "Gloriously twisting . . . a heady campfire tale of a novel."—The New York Times Book Review NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Time • NPR • BookRiot Reality is broken. At first, it looks like a disease. An epidemic that spreads through no known means, driving its victims mad with memories of a life they never lived. But the force that's sweeping the world is no pathogen. It's just the first shock wave, unleashed by a stunning discovery—and what's in jeopardy is not our minds but the very fabric of time itself. In New York City, Detective Barry Sutton is closing in on the truth—and in a remote laboratory, neuroscientist Helena Smith is unaware that she alone holds the key to this mystery . . . and the tools for fighting back. Together, Barry and Helena will have to confront their enemy—before they, and the world, are trapped in a loop of ever-growing chaos. Praise for *Recursion* "An action-packed, brilliantly unique ride that had me up late and shirking responsibilities until I had devoured the last page . . . a fantastic read."—Andy Weir, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Martian* "Another profound science-fiction thriller. Crouch masterfully blends science and intrigue into the experience of what it means to be deeply human."—Newsweek "Definitely not one to forget when you're packing for vacation . . . [Crouch] breathes fresh life into matters with a mix of heart, intelligence, and philosophical musings."—Entertainment Weekly "A trippy journey down memory lane . . . [Crouch's] intelligence is an able match for the challenge he's set of overcoming the structure of time itself."—Time "Wildly entertaining . . . another winning novel from an author at the top of his game."—AV Club

the birthmark: The Birthmarked Trilogy Caragh M. O'Brien, 2014-11-18 *The Birthmarked Trilogy: Birthmarked, Prized, Promised* In the future there are those who live inside the wall and those, like sixteen-year-old midwife Gaia Stone, who live outside . . . Perfect for fans new to the

series, the three books of Caragh O'Brien's Birthmarked Trilogy are available together in this bundle. Birthmarked: Gaia has always believed it is her duty, with her mother, to hand over a small quota of babies to the Enclave. But when Gaia's mother and father are arrested by the very people they so dutifully serve, Gaia is forced to question everything she has been taught to believe. Prized: Striking out into the wasteland with nothing but her baby sister and a rumor to guide her, Gaia survives only to be captured by the people of Sylum, a dystopian society where women rule the men who drastically outnumber them, and a kiss is a crime. In order to see her sister again, Gaia must submit to their strict social code, but how can she deny her sense of justice, her curiosity, and everything in her heart that makes her whole? Promised: After defying the ruthless Enclave, surviving the wasteland, and upending the rigid matriarchy of Sylum, Gaia now faces her biggest challenge ever. She must lead the people of Sylum back to the Enclave and persuade the Protectorat to grant them refuge from the wasteland. Is Gaia ready, as a leader, to sacrifice what—or whom—she loves most? Includes bonus chapters from Caragh O'Brien's Vault of Dreamers!

the birthmark: *Beauty Is My Birthmark* Diana Mendoza, 2019-08-06 Beauty is my birthmark is a book dedicated to my daughter Emely who was Sturge Weber and a Port Wine Stain. I wanted to have something that she can share in her first year of school. This book is also dedicated to all the Sturge Weber and Port Wine Stain families. Growing up and being different is one of the hardest things a kid can go through in school. I put myself in my daughters' shoes and I just wanted to find the easiest way to let others know what it is that she has on her face without being questioned. When you see people staring and looking at you, wondering what it is you have on your face, making you feel uncomfortable. As a parent, it makes us feel uncomfortable I can't imagine the feeling my child has. To all my Sturge weber families you know exactly how this feels. This book will explain it as simple as possible. It is meant for young readers 4 years -9 years, where they can clearly understand that "It's just a birthmark" and that its okay to be different. Being different but still beautiful.

the birthmark: *Love and First Sight* Josh Sundquist, 2017-01-03 In his debut novel, YouTube personality and author of *We Should Hang Out Sometime* Josh Sundquist explores the nature of love, trust, and romantic attraction. On his first day at a new school, blind sixteen-year-old Will Porter accidentally groped a girl on the stairs, sat on another student in the cafeteria, and somehow drove a classmate to tears. High school can only go up from here, right? As Will starts to find his footing, he develops a crush on a charming, quiet girl named Cecily. Then an unprecedented opportunity arises: an experimental surgery that could give Will eyesight for the first time in his life. But learning to see is more difficult than Will ever imagined, and he soon discovers that the sighted world has been keeping secrets. It turns out Cecily doesn't meet traditional definitions of beauty--in fact, everything he'd heard about her appearance was a lie engineered by their so-called friends to get the two of them together. Does it matter what Cecily looks like? No, not really. But then why does Will feel so betrayed? Told with humor and breathtaking poignancy, *Love and First Sight* is a story about how we relate to each other and the world around us.

the birthmark: *A Justified State* Iain Kelly, 2018-10-29 The future. The socially reformist Central Alliance Party rules unopposed. Poverty and homelessness have been eradicated, but overpopulation, an energy crisis and an ongoing war jeopardise the stability of the country. When a local politician is assassinated, Detective Danny Samson finds himself at the centre of an investigation that threatens not only his life, but the entire future of The State.

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