

EVENTS

‘Vinegar Girl’ a clever riff on Shakespeare’s ‘Shrew’

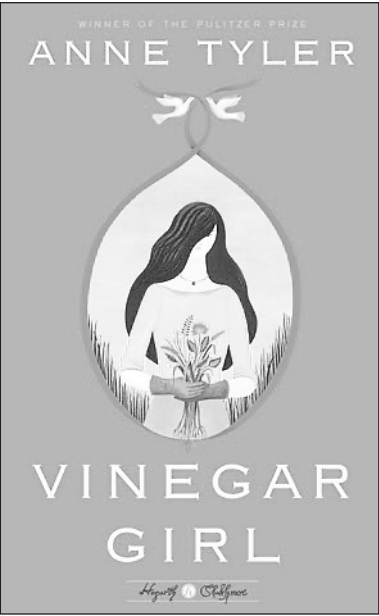
“Vinegar Girl” by Anne Tyler; Hogarth (240 pages, \$25)

BY MIKE FISCHER
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Is there any living American writer who has written as well about marriage as Anne Tyler? Or who has consistently been as honest about the disconnect between fantasies of lovebirds living happily ever after and the often sad but also funny miracle of two separate people actually staying together?

In “Vinegar Girl,” Tyler brings these talents to the altar of the Hogarth Shakespeare series, in which eight writers are creating novelistic adaptations of various Bard plays. Tyler’s novel weds her career-long focus on the quirks of marriage to one of Shakespeare’s strangest unions: Petruchio and Katherina in “The Taming of the Shrew.” It’s a heavenly match.

Shakespeare’s ostensibly shrewish Katherina is now Kate, a 29-year-old preschool teaching assistant in Baltimore. She lives at home with Bunny and Louis: her



spoiled and ditsy teenage sister and her widowed father, a medical researcher convinced he’s on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Tyler’s Petruchio is Pyotr, Louis’ lab assistant. Like Petruchio in Shakespeare’s play, he’s a foreigner. That’s where the plot

thickens in “Vinegar Girl”: Pyotr’s visa is about to expire, and Louis can’t afford to lose him. Louis’ solution: A contrived marriage between Pyotr and his oldest daughter. She doesn’t otherwise look to be getting married anytime soon.

And why not? Because Kate speaks her own mind and then some, in a world where outspoken women are still liable to be disparaged for the same behavior that prompts praise of male peers as confident and aggressive.

Kate has no compunction telling parents of her preschoolers that their darlings aren’t necessarily exceptional. She was asked to leave the college she’d been attending for describing her professor’s explanation of photosynthesis as “half-assed” — this strains credulity as a plot point, but plot also wasn’t Shakespeare’s strong suit.

Kate can be judgmental regarding others’ foibles; as with Katherina, it’s a convenient way of preempting how often others judge her, “dark-skinned and big-boned and gawky.” “Nobody,” we’re told,

“had ever called her sweet.” Pyotr calls her “vinegar girl.”

And he means it as a compliment. “In my country they have proverb,” he tells her at one point, in his awkward English. “Beware against the sweet person, for sugar has no nutrition.”

Much as Petruchio initially woos Katherina for her fortune, all Pyotr initially wants from Kate is a green card. But as with the pair in “Shrew,” what these two lost and lonely souls discover is how much they have in common, as smart and strong-minded people leagued against a world of conformists, none of whom can truly see what makes Kate special.

Truth be told, Kate can hardly see it herself; having been viewed by others as a modern-day shrew for most of her life, she’s gradually come to see herself as one, which is among the reasons she has no friends and isn’t sure she wants to marry anyone, let alone a man like Pyotr whom she neither knows nor loves.

And yet it’s Pyotr — a milder version of Petruchio, just as Kate isn’t nearly as rough around the

edges as Katherina — who helps Kate see her supposed deficiencies as strengths, while also giving her permission to fully embrace herself and thereby appreciate him.

As with the best stage productions of “Shrew,” love creates a fundamental equality between the pair at the center of Tyler’s novel; critics apt to castigate Shakespeare’s play for its supposed sexism repeatedly miss this underlying truth.

Tyler misses nothing. Yes, in her best novels about marriage, from “Breathing Lessons” (1988) through “A Spool of Blue Thread” (2015), the canvas on which such truths appear is bigger and more textured; in comparison, “Vinegar Girl” is a bit of a lark. So was “Shrew.”

But this jeu d’esprit embodies all the reasons readers love Anne Tyler: It’s fun, lighthearted, clever, compassionate and filled with Tyler’s always extraordinary love for her characters, liberating them here to love each other.

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Things to Do

BANGOR — Peter Neill, author of “The Once and Future Ocean,” discussing why the ocean matters, 6 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Bangor Public Library. bangorpubliclibrary.org.

BANGOR — River City Cinema presents “Summer of Love” in its outdoor summer movie series, sundown, Pickering Square: “Pillow Talk,” June 24; “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” July 1; “Harold and Maude,” July 8; “The Princess Bride,” July 15; “Say Anything,” July 22; “You’ve Got Mail,” July 29. Rain date, Aug. 5. Free.

BAR HARBOR — Abbe Museum educator and Passamaquoddy George Neptune walking tour to visit places significant to Wabanaki history and culture, including information on local Wabanaki place names, traditional songs and creation stories, 10-11:30 a.m. Friday, June 24, meeting at the museum, 26 Mount Desert St. \$10 for members; \$20 for nonmembers; free for under age 10. To buy tickets, 288-3519.

BLUE HILL — Herbalist Stephanie Tourles of Orland, author of “Naturally Bug-Free: Learn How to Protect Your Family and Pets,” talking about creating chemical-free bug repellents for people, flea and tick repellents for dogs and cats and chemical-free insecticides for the home, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Blue Hill Public Library. Free and open to all. 374-5515.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Steve and the Good Old Boys, June 24. Marilyn, 827-5751.

CAMDEN — Illustrated talk with Anne O’Regan, who traveled through California, Oregon and Washington, completing a thru-hike five months later in Manning Park, Canada, 7-8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Camden Public Library, 55 Main St. 236-3440.

CARMEL — Adult coloring event with tips on materials to use, 6 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Simpson Memorial Library, 8 Plymouth Road. Participants may bring their own color pages and materials, or use the library’s color pages and color pencils. 848-7145.

DEER ISLE — “Imaging the Sea” exhibit featuring photographs taken by members of Deer Isle’s fishing community, through July 17, Kingman Gallery, 117 Center District Crossroad. Benefits Island Fishermen’s Wives Association. Gallery hours, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. 348-9333.

EASTPORT — The Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St.: June 24, “Penguins of Madagascar.” 214-0040 or lolly@sweetiesd-owneast.com.

EASTPORT — Eastport Strings Summer Intensive program, “Music from Bach to the Beatles,” 3-6 p.m. through Thursday, June 23, Eastport Arts Center, 36 Washington St. Fun and educational program for youth and adult string players. Includes arts and crafts, string playing and skill-building. Snacks will be served. Arts center handicapped-accessible. Public concert by participants, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23. Advance registration required by contacting Alice St. Clair, 853-0823 or alice@

schuth.com. Eastportartscenter.org.

EDDINGTON — Pie sale, 4-6 p.m. Friday, June 24, Comins Hall, 1387 Main Road. Proceeds benefit preservation of Comins Hall. CominsHall.org.

ELLSWORTH — Six-wicket golf croquet, 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays, June-October, Woodlawn Museum, Gardens and Park, 19 Black House Drive, Route 172. \$10 per week for noncroquet members. Equipment provided if needed. No experience necessary. 667-8671 or woodlawnmuseum.com.

NORTHPORT — Belfast Garden Club Open Garden Days, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, June 24, Block residence, 1485 Atlantic Highway. Bring picnic lunch to enjoy at outdoor tables with water views. \$5 at the residence. Benefits the garden club. BelfastGardenClub.org or Martha Laitin, 323-2368.

ORONO — University of Maine School of Performing Arts selections from an opera in one act, “Until the War Is Over,” 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Black Box Theatre, Class of 1944 Hall. Also, lecture based on “Bid Me to Live” by H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), by poet Jennifer Moxley, 7 p.m. Free. 581-4703.

OTIS — Vacation Bible School for children in grades one through six, 9 a.m.-noon through Friday, June 24, Otis Baptist Church, Route 180. Games, snacks, crafts, songs and adventure. Theme is “Cave Quest: Jesus Is the Light of the World.” Free. To register, 537-2065.

PORTLAND — Reunion of USS Forrest B. Royal DD872, Thursday through Sunday, June 23. Ron Larson, reunion coordinator, 1240 Frank-

lin St., Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494-2807, mosby-usn@wctc.net or 715-423-8905.

PORTLAND — Maine College of Art’s second annual Art in Exodus exhibition, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays through June 24, Porteous Building, 522 Congress St. In recognition of World Refugee Day on June 20.

PORTLAND — “TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition,” through Oct. 14, Portland Science Center, 68 Commercial St. Prices \$17-\$19.50. 888-718-4253, Info@PortlandScienceCenter.com or www.portlandsciencecenter.com.

PRESQUE ISLE — Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce’s annual strawberry shortcake sale, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, parking lot of The Aroostook Medical Center’s North Street Health Center. Pre-orders at 764-6561 or by email at lfrederick@

centralaroostookchamber.com. Shortcakes are \$3.50 each. Orders of 10 or more qualify for free delivery.

ROCKLAND — Two solo shows, through June 26, Landing Gallery, 409 Main St. “Postcards from Home,” oil paintings by Sarah Faragher; “Passages: Time and the Sea,” 27 new ceramic boats by David Ridley Peterson. 239-1223 or LandingArt.com.

ROCKPORT — Trivia Night hosted by DJ Jammin’ Jeff, 6-8 p.m. Friday, June 24, Penobscot Bay YMCA, 116 Union St. Light snacks will be provided. \$25 per team of three to five participants. Benefits YMCA aquatics department Learn to Swim Program. To register, 236-3375 or stop by.

SEARSPORT — Historians and authors Libby Bischof, Susan Danly and Earle G. Shettleworth Jr. discussing and

signing their book, “Maine Photography: A History, 1840-2015,” 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Penobscot Marine Museum’s Carver Memorial Gallery, 11 Church St. penobscotmarinemuseum.org; visitors center, 548-0334; administrative offices, 548-2529.

WISCASSET — Ian Fowler, director of the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, University of Southern Maine, “Mapping Revolutionary Maine: George Sproule’s 1772 Map of the Mid-coast,” 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, Historic New England, Nickels-Sortwell House barn, Federal Street. \$5 Historic New England members; \$10 others. 882-7169 or historicnewengland.org/events-programs.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

Thursday prime time

| | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| BROADCAST | 2 NBC 207 Inside Ed. | Spartan-Team Challenge | Spartan-Team Challenge | Aquarius (N) (HD) | News | | | | |
| | 4 CBC The Nature of Things | Keeping Canada Alive | The National (N) | CBC Coronation | Blackstone | | | | |
| | 5 CBS Big Bang | Broke Girl | Big Bang | Life in | Big Brother (N) (HD) | (9:59) Code Black | News | | |
| | 52 CW Family Guy | Family Guy | DC's Legends | Beauty and the Beast | News | Seinfeld | Cougar | | |
| | 6 NBC 207 Inside Ed. | Spartan-Team Challenge | Spartan-Team Challenge | Aquarius (N) (HD) | News | | | | |
| | 7 ABC Wheel | Jeopardy! | BattleBots Teams compete in three-minute bouts. | Celebrity Family Feud | News | | | | |
| | WAGM FOX The Insider | Bones (N) (HDTV PA) | Home Free (N) (HD) | News | Big Bang | Big Bang | | | |
| | 8 ABC Wheel | Jeopardy! | BattleBots Teams compete in three-minute bouts. | Celebrity Family Feud | News | | | | |
| | MPBN PBS PBS NewsHour (N) (HD) | Doctor Blake Mysteries | Death in Paradise | | Lilac Ridge | C. Rose | | | |
| | 9 IND Goldbergs | Cleveland | Big Bang | Odd Couple | Criminal Minds | News-Lisa | CTV News | Daily Show | |
| KIDS | 13 CBS Ent. Tonight | The Insider | Big Bang | Life in | Big Brother (N) (HD) | (9:59) Code Black | News | | |
| | 22 FOX Mod Fam | Mod Fam | Bones (N) (HDTV PA) | Home Free (N) (HD) | FOX 22 News at 10 (N) | Mentalist | | | |
| | 33 IND M*A*S*H | M*A*S*H | Andy Griffith | Andy Griffith | Happy Days | Gilligan Isle | Hogan Hero | Hogan Hero | C. Burnett |
| | 38 IND Big Bang | Big Bang | The Mentalist (HD) | The Mentalist (HD) | WBZ News (N) (HD) | Seinfeld | | | |
| | NICK Thunder | Thunder | * Zookeeper (2011, Comedy) | Kevin James. (PG) | Full House | Full House | Friends | | |
| | DISN Liv-Mad. | Stuck | *** Finding Nemo (2003) (G) | (:45) Bunk'd | Liv-Mad. | Walk the | K.C. Under. | | |
| | FREE (:15) ** The Wedding Planner (2001) (ESP) | Jennifer Lopez. (PG-13) | | | Pretty Little Liars | 700 Club | | | |
| | HIST Pawn Stars | Pawn Stars | Alone: A Deeper Cut (N) | Alone (N) | (:03) Mountain Men (N) | Mnt. Men | | | |
| | DISC Fast N' Loud | Street Outlaws: Full Throttle | | | Street Outlaws (N) | Outlaws | | | |
| | TLC My 600-Lb. Life | My 600-Lb. Life | Extreme Weight Loss | | Fat Chance (N) | Fabulous | | | |
| LEARN | A&E The First 48 | The First 48 | The First 48 (N) | | (:01) The First 48 | The First 48 | | | |
| | ANPL Last Alaskans: Remote | Last Alaskans: Remote | (:01) North Woods Law | | (:02) Lone Star Law (N) | North-Law | | | |
| | CSNE Celtics Draft Central The Boston Celtics prepare for the NBA Draft. (N) (L) | | | | | SportsNet | | | |
| | ESPN NBA Draft | 2016 NBA Draft (N) (L) | | | | | | | |
| | ESPN2 Baseball Tonight (N) (L) | College Baseball NCAA World Series -- TBA vs. Texas Tech. Game 10. (N) (L) | | | | SportCtr | | | |
| | NBCSP U.S. Olympic Trials | U.S. Olympic Trials Men Gymnastics. (N) (L) | | | | Trials | | | |
| | NESN Minor League Baseball Syracuse Chiefs at Pawtucket Red Sox. (N) (L) | | | | | Sports | Sports | Sports | |
| | CNBC Jay Leno's Garage | American Greed | American Greed | | American Greed (N) | Greed | | | |
| | CNN Erin Burnett OutFront (N) | Anderson Cooper 360 | Anderson Cooper 360 | | CNN Tonight | Cooper 360 | | | |
| | FNC Greta Van Susteren | The O'Reilly Factor (N) | The Kelly File (N) | | Hannity (N) | O'Reilly | | | |
| NEWS | MSNBC Hardball Chris Matthews | All In With Chris Hayes | Rachel Maddow Show | | The Last Word | All In With | | | |
| | AMC *** Hitch (2005, Romance-Comedy) (ESP) | Will Smith. (PG-13) | *** Bad Boys (1995, Action) | Martin Lawrence. (R) | | | | | |
| | BRV Million Dollar Listing | Million Dollar Listing | Million Dollar Listing | Housewives/OC | Happens | | | | |
| | CMT Last Man | Last Man | Last Man | Dude | Still King | Last Man | S. Austin | | |
| | COM Futurama | Futurama | Jim Gaffigan | Jim Gaffigan | Tosh.0 | Tosh.0 | Tosh.0 | Daily Show | |
| | E! El News (N) | The Kardashians | The Kardashians | | Famously Single | E! News | | | |
| | FOOD Chopped | Chopped | Chopped | | Beat Bobby | Beat Bobby | Beat Bobby | | |
| | FX (6:00) *** The Croods | ** Hotel Transylvania (2012, Comedy) (PG) | | | ** Hotel Transylvania (2012) (PG) | | | | |
| | GAC Lakefront | Lakefront | Lakefront | Lakefront | Lakefront | Lakefront | Lakefront | | |
| | HALL Last Man | Last Man | Last Man | The Middle | The Middle | The Middle | Golden Girls | | |
| VARIETY | HGTV Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Flip or Flop | Hunters | Hunters Int'l | Vintage Flip |
| | LIFE Deadly Wives | Deadly Wives | Deadly Wives | Deadly Wives | (:02) Deadly Wives | Wives | | | |
| | MTV Ridiculous. | Ridiculous. | Ridiculous. | Ridiculous. | Ridiculous. | Ridiculous. | Ladylike | | |
| | OXY *** Pride & Prejudice (2005, Drama) | Keira Knightley, Judi Dench. (PG) | | | *** Pride & Prejudice (2005) (PG) | | | | |
| | SPIKE (6:30) * Law Abiding Citizen (2009) | Jamie Foxx. (NR) | Lip Sync Battle | | Lip Sync | Lip Sync | Lip Sync | | |
| | SYFY * Friday the 13th (2009, Horror) | Jared Padalecki. (R) | ** Freddy vs. Jason (2003) | Robert Englund. (R) | Nightmare | | | | |
| | TBN Drive | Potters | Trinity | Joel Osteen | Prince | Hillsong TV | Praise the Lord | | |
| | TBS Seinfeld | Seinfeld | Broke Girl | Broke Girl | Big Bang | Broke Girl | Broke Girl | Conan (N) | |
| | TCM (6:00) ** Latin Lovers | *** West Side Story (1961, Musical) | Natalie Wood. (NR) | | (:45) The Music Man (G) | | | | |
| | TMC (6:30) N.Y.C. Underground | *** Mindhunters (2004) (ESP) | LL Cool J. (R) | | *** The Seven Five (2014) (ESP) | (G) | | | |
| PREMIUM | TNT Castle | The Last Ship | The Last Ship | | *** The Green Mile (1999) (R) | | | | |
| | TRAVEL Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | Mysteries at the Museum | | |
| | TRU Imp. Jokers | Imp. Jokers | Imp. Jokers | Imp. Jokers | Imp. Jokers | Knockout | Imp. Jokers | | |
| | TVL Andy Griffith | Andy Griffith | (:12) George Lopez | George | Raymond | Raymond | Raymond | King | |
| | USA Law & Order: SVU | WWE SmackDown! (N) | | | Queen of the South (N) | 2 Fast | | | |
| | VH1 ** White Chicks (2004) | Shawn Wayans. (PG-13) | Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta | | Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta | Hip Hop | | | |
| | WGN-A Elementary | Elementary | Elementary | | Elementary | How I Met | | | |
| | HBO What Happens | Any Given Wednesday | ** Ted 2 (2015, Comedy) | (ESP) Mark Wahlberg, Voice of Seth MacFarlane, Amanda Seyfried. (R) | Veep | Silicon Valley | Game of Thrones | | |
| | MAX Outcast (ESP) | Outcast | Kyle questions his family history. (ESP) | (8:50) Outcast (4:40) *** Gone Girl (2014) (ESP) | Ben Affleck. A woman disappears on her fifth wedding anniversary. (R) | | | | |
| | SHOW Lara Croft Tmb | Meet the Hitlers (2014) | The relationship between names and identity. (NR) | Penny Dreadful | Penny Dreadful | Gigolos | ESP | | |
| STARZ | (6:00) * No Good Deed | (:25) *** The Good Dinosaur (2015) (ESP) | Voices of Jeffrey Wright. (PG) | ** Vantage Point (2008, Suspense) (ESP) | Dennis Quaid. (PG-13) | (:35) ** Blade II (2002) (ESP) | Wesley Snipes. (R) | | |
| | (6:45) *** Foxcatcher (2014, Docudrama) (ESP) | Steve Carell, Channing Tatum, Mark Ruffalo. (R) | | The White Queen The final battle for the throne. | (:05) ** The Quick and the Dead (1995, Western) (ESP) | Sharon Stone. (R) | | | |

Cherryfield announces events for 200th anniversary

CHERRYFIELD — The town of Cherryfield will celebrate its 200th anniversary Thursday through Saturday, June 23-25. The schedule of events is:

Thursday, June 23
Dog show, 4 p.m. Cherryfield Academy. Call 546-3874 to register. Bring rabies vaccination certificate. Registration fee, \$3.

Follies, 7 p.m. Cherryfield Academy.

Friday, June 24
Children’s parade, 4 p.m. Starts at the Legion hall. Strawberry shortcake available for purchase at the hall.

Follies, 7 p.m. Cherryfield Academy.

Saturday, June 25
Rain date for these events is Sunday June 26.
Breakfast, 7-8 p.m. Congregational church.

Registration for the Donna and David Memorial Race, 7:30 a.m. Race begins 8 a.m. Meet near the sidewalk in front of the bandstand.
Children’s game 8:30-10:30 a.m. on the academy lawn.

Parade line up on Stillwater Road, 10 a.m.

Grand parade with more than 50 units, 11 a.m.

Car show, 12:30-2 p.m. Glen Wilbur’s Family Furniture.

Lawn mower races, 1 p.m. at the school.

Anything that Floats, 1-4 p.m.

Black Ice Band, 7-9 p.m. at the school.

Fireworks display with 200-piece rapid fire, 9:10 p.m.

The celebration also will offer craft fairs at the academy and the Legion hall, a book sale at the library on Saturday and the historical society will be open on Saturday.

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