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On the front cover:
Little Rock, Arkansas, circa 1910.
"View from the Free Bridge."

The sign:
YOU MUST WALK YOUR HORSE OVER BRIDGE.

Member of the Association of University Presses
The Guestroom Novelist
A Donald Harington Miscellany

EDITED BY BRIAN WALTER

“The Guestroom Novelist is a treasure chest for anyone who, like me, considers Donald Harington one of the finest writers of our day, and his Stay More one of literature’s most vibrantly inhabited (and in-habited) creations. Over the past ten years, I had become resigned to the idea that I would never see a single new page of his work, but here, between these covers, you’ll find hundreds of such pages, full of his insights, judgments, complaints, and celebrations—and, most valuably of all, his extensive commentary, in a series of long interviews, about each and every one of his novels.”

—Kevin Brockmeier, author of A Few Seconds of Radiant Filmstrip: A Memoir of Seventh Grade

The Guestroom Novelist: A Donald Harington Miscellany gathers extensive interviews and previously unpublished or uncollected essays, articles, and reviews by the Arkansawyer novelist—“America’s greatest unknown writer,” according to Entertainment Weekly. Together, these pieces reveal how a life of devastating losses and disappointments inspired the “quirkiest, most original body of work in contemporary US letters” (Boston Globe). In detailed commentaries on the origins and evolution of all fifteen of his novels, the author explains how his ardent quest for “lost places in the heart” gave birth to Stay More, the fictional Ozarks town that provided his novels’ settings. This career-spanning and eclectic selection of nonfiction illuminates the expansive philosophical and intellectual foundations upon which the author built the delightful tales of his beloved “Stay Morons.” At times a dogged Captain Ahab, stalking the tantalizing and infuriating white whale of publishing success, at others an irrepressible Don Quixote of folk culture, Harington dramatizes both the challenges and the triumphs built into the very notion of a distinctively American literature. The Guestroom Novelist serves up a rich, eclectic portrait of the artist as a young, middle-aged, and fiercely funny old man, a testimony to the writer’s magnificent ability to transform the seemingly crude stuff of our material existence into enduring art.
Men of Steel, Women of Wonder
Modern American Superheroes in Contemporary Art

ALEJO BENEDETTI

Superman and Wonder Woman—awash in patriotic colors and portrayed as the ultimate Americans—were beacons of integrity in midcentury America. Created in 1938, Superman was a brawny paragon of strength during the fallout of the Great Depression. Three years later, Wonder Woman fought alongside American troops in World War II.

Men of Steel, Women of Wonder, an exhibition from Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art opening February 2019, examines how artists use Superman and Wonder Woman to discuss social issues, politics, and national identity. The works in this exhibition range from loving endorsements of heroic ideals to unflinching critiques of hard issues affecting American society.

This accompanying catalog, packaged in a boxed set including five cloth volumes, examines more than seventy artworks from the exhibit, including paintings, drawings, photography, installations, videos, and performances, to further the understanding of these enduring characters in our culture, and the diverse ways artists employ them. From the masterfully painted work of Mel Ramos to the humorously conceived installations of Jim Shaw, the works featured here wrestle with Wonder Woman’s status as a feminist icon, position Superman as a soviet-era weapon, accuse both characters of being illegal immigrants, and much more. Men of Steel, Women of Wonder is an exciting and thought-provoking engagement with these two seminal superhero characters across time, using them as lenses through which to view an ever-evolving understanding of American values.

Published in collaboration with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and University of Arkansas School of Art.
The Golden Shovel Anthology
2nd edition
New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks

EDITED BY PETER KAHN, RAVI SHANKAR, AND PATRICIA SMITH

FOREWORD BY TERRANCE HAYES

“The cross-section of poets with varying poetics and styles gathered here is only one of the many admirable achievements of this volume.”
—Claudia Rankine in the New York Times

“Varied and dazzling.”
—Kenyon Review

“A lovely tribute, as well as an excellent collection of new work by a wide range of many of our most exciting contemporary poets.”
—New York Times Magazine

“Fresh and vital.”
—Poetry

“A substantial and dynamic contribution to American literature.”
—Booklist

The Golden Shovel Anthology celebrates the life and work of poet and civil rights icon Gwendolyn Brooks through a dynamic new poetic form, the Golden Shovel, created by National Book Award–winner Terrance Hayes.

An array of writers—including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the T. S. Eliot Prize, and the National Book Award, as well as a couple of National Poets Laureate—have written poems for this exciting new anthology: Rita Dove, Billy Collins, Danez Smith, Nikki Giovanni, Sharon Olds, Tracy K. Smith, Mark Doty, Sharon Draper, Richard Powers, and Julia Glass are just a few of the contributing poets.

This second edition includes Golden Shovel poems by two winners and six runners-up from an international student poetry competition judged by Nora Brooks Blakely, Gwendolyn Brooks’s daughter. The poems by these eight talented high school students add to Ms. Brooks’s legacy and contribute to the depth and breadth of this anthology.

POETRY 3
A Short History of Monsters
Poems
JOSE PADUA
Winner, Miller Williams Poetry Prize

“We are the happy riders on the stream of Padua’s consciousness . . . a smart, sympathetic mind at work.”
—Billy Collins

Drawing on the spirit of New York City in decades past, A Short History of Monsters presents the sins and obsessions of a poet nimble in the beat and slam traditions. In this first full-length collection, Jose Padua wrestles with an American dream interrupted by failure, excess, and other nightmares. Often brash and unruly, these poems range from recollections of lost, drunken days to unadorned manifestations of hope. Throughout, the speaker redefines his relationship to pop culture, praising it, skewering it, and mourning it by turns.

The poems that make up A Short History of Monsters tend toward both dark humor and epiphany, diving deeply into their own despair and rising up again with existential absurdity. This is a poetry that gets down into the grit and grime of the real world, digging out a space to experience being alive—miraculous in and of itself.

This project is supported by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Miller Williams Poetry Fund.
Unmanly Grief
Poems
JESS WILLIARD

Finalist, Miller Williams Poetry Prize

“Poems that lead us to striking insights and strange destinations.”
—Billy Collins

The men who recur as characters throughout Jess Williard’s Unmanly Grief perform their masculinity in a variety of ways: boxing, theater, brotherhood, labor, and familial and romantic love. Marked by a sharp nostalgia, Williard’s poems move from Wisconsin to New York City and back, tracing the geographic movement of the speaker and his family: a teenage sister who disappears and returns, changed irrevocably; an older brother dismantled in adulthood; an ever-sacrificing father.

Williard’s speaker is a boxer and an actor, and throughout the collection, physical performance leads to the discovery of more nuanced masculinities. Woven through the musculature of this varied and exciting collection, music appears as readily in dexterous formal verse as in lean, scrappy storytelling. What amounts is a singing celebration of struggle and tenderness in this world, “where to be small and furious is enough.”

This project is supported by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Miller Williams Poetry Fund.

Jess Williard’s poems, stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in Poetry Northwest, Third Coast, North American Review, Colorado Review, Southern Humanities Review, Poet Lore, and more. He is originally from Wisconsin and now lives in Atlanta. This is his first book.

MARCH
50 pages, 5 ½ × 8 ½
$17.95 paper, 978-1-68226-093-7
e-book 978-1-61075-662-4
Miller Williams Poetry Series
Distilled from *Arkansas: A Narrative History*, the definitive work on the subject since its original publication in 2002, *Arkansas: A Concise History* is a succinct one-volume history of the state from the prehistory period to the near-present. Featuring four historians who have published extensively on a range of topics, the volume introduces readers to the major issues that have confronted the state and traces the evolution of those issues across time.

The book begins by situating the state geographically and geologically and then moves on to chapters covering prehistory and precolonial periods. These chapters, written by George Sabo III, director of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, ground the reader in the important background of native peoples and their lifeways. Judge Morris S. Arnold’s chapter on the colonial period portrays the colonial French and Spanish era and the interaction of those Europeans with Native Americans, particularly the Quapaw Indians. Civil War historian Tom DeBlack covers the territorial era, early statehood, antebellum, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Jeannie Whayne covers the period following Reconstruction including the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Elaine Race Massacre, the Great Depression, World War II and its aftermath, the Civil Rights movement, bringing the book into the early twenty-first century.

Linking these moments together and placing an emphasis on how economic decisions have informed Arkansas’s history, *Arkansas: A Concise History* puts perspective on the political and economic realities the state continues to face today.

Jeannie M. Whayne is university professor at the University of Arkansas and the author of *Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South*.

Thomas A. DeBlack is retired professor of history at Arkansas Tech University. He is the author of *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas, 1861–1874*.

George Sabo III is professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas and director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. His publications include *Rock Art in Arkansas* and *Paths of Our Children: Historic Indians of Arkansas*.

Morris S. Arnold is a United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit and author of *Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and the Old World Neighbors, 1673–1804*.

Arkansas
A Concise History

JEANNIE M. WHAYNE, THOMAS A. DEBLACK, GEORGE SABO III, AND MORRIS S. ARNOLD
Arkansas Travelers
Geographies of Exploration and Perception, 1804–1834

ANDREW J. MILSON

“I reckon stranger you have not been used much to traveling in the woods,” a hunter remarked to Henry Rowe Schoolcraft as he trekked through the Ozark backcountry in late 1818. The ensuing exchange is one of many compelling encounters between Arkansas travelers and settlers depicted in Arkansas Travelers: Geographies of Exploration and Perception, 1804–1834. This book is the first to integrate the stories of four travelers who explored Arkansas during the transformative period between the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and statehood in 1836: William Dunbar, Thomas Nuttall, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, and George William Featherstonhaugh.

In addition to gathering their tales of treacherous rivers, drunken scoundrels, and repulsive food, historian and geographer Andrew J. Milson explores the impact such travel narratives have had on geographical understandings of Arkansas places. Using the language in each traveler’s narrative, Milson suggests, and the book includes, new maps that trace these perceptions, illustrating not just the lands traversed, but the way travelers experienced and perceived place. By taking a geographical approach to the history of these spaces, Arkansas Travelers offers a deeper understanding—a deeper map—of Arkansas.

Andrew J. Milson is professor of history and geography at the University of Texas at Arlington. His ancestors settled in Arkansas in the 1820s.
“To Feast on Us as Their Prey raises the academic-historical study of cannibalism to a new level. ‘Cannibal’ is a loaded word; in the past, New World colonists, who feature prominently in these pages, denounced Native populations as ‘kennyballes’ and ‘canibales’ as a rationale for conquering them. Yet there is ample evidence that ‘civilized’ people too, including some colonists, resorted to cannibalism as a coping strategy in famine conditions in the past—and that they were forgiven for doing so. The topic is an inherently complex and disturbing one, which the ten essays in this collection handle with sensitivity, learning, and originality.”

—Cormac Ó Gráda, author of *Eating People is Wrong and Other Essays on Famine* and coeditor of *Famine in European History*

Long before the founding of the Jamestown, Virginia, colony and its Starving Time of 1609–1610—one of the most famous cannibalism narratives in North American colonial history—cannibalism, and accusations of cannibalism, played an important role in the history of food, hunger, and moral outrage. Why did colonial invaders go out of their way to accuse women of cannibalism? What challenges did Spaniards face in trying to explain Eucharist rites to Native peoples? What roles did preconceived notions about non-Europeans play in inflating accounts of cannibalism in Christopher Columbus’s reports as they moved through Italian merchant circles?

Asking questions such as these and exploring what it meant to accuse someone of eating people as well as how cannibalism rumors facilitated slavery and the rise of empires, *To Feast on Us as Their Prey* posits that it is impossible to separate histories of cannibalism from the role food and hunger have played in the colonization efforts that shaped our modern world.
A Rich and Tantalizing Brew
A History of How Coffee Connected the World

JEANETTE M. FREGULIA

“Jeanette M. Fregulia has written a beautifully woven history of coffee, bringing together its social, spiritual, economic, and aesthetic roles with elegance and exceptional scholarship. This book is a must for scholars, students, and lovers of the ‘rich and tantalizing brew’ alike. It will become standard reading for anyone interested in understanding how coffee became one of the most beloved commodities on the planet.”

—Nancy Stockdale, University of North Texas

The history of coffee is much more than the tale of one nonessential good—it is a lens through which to consider various strands of world history, from food and foodways to religion and economics and sociocultural history.

A Rich and Tantalizing Brew traces the history of the coffee bean, beginning with its cultivation and brewing as a private pleasure in the highlands of Ethiopia and Yemen before its emergence as a common comfort, first in the Muslim world, then across the Mediterranean to Italy, other parts of Europe, and beyond to India and the Americas. At each of these stops the brew gathered ardent aficionados and vocal critics, all the while reshaping the social landscape.

Taking its conversational tone from the chats often held over a steaming cup, A Rich and Tantalizing Brew offers a critical and entertaining look at how this bitter beverage, with a little help from the tastes that traveled with it—chocolate, tea, and sugar—has connected people to each other both within and outside of their typical circles, inspiring a new context for sharing news, conducting business affairs, and even plotting revolution.
The Literature of the Ozarks
An Anthology

EDITED BY PHILLIP DOUGLAS HOWERTON

The job of regional literature is twofold: to explore and confront the culture from within, and to help define that culture for outsiders. Taken together, the two centuries of Ozarks literature collected in this ambitious anthology do just that. The fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama presented in The Literature of the Ozarks take on stereotypes of backwoods ignorance, debunk the pastoral myth, expand on the meaning of wilderness, and position the Ozarks—the most extensive highlands between the Appalachians and the Rockies—as a crossroads of human experience with meaningful ties to national literary movements.

Among the variety presented here are an Osage priest who celebrated the Ozarks wilderness, an early explorer from New York who found both the vulgar and the sublime lurking in the backwoods, a native-born farm wife who captured her hopes and tragedies in poetry for more than fifty years, several African American writers who protested attacks on their communities, a Pulitzer Prize–winning poet who contemplated the cultural strengths and shortcomings of his native place, and an art history professor who created a fictional town and a postmodern parody of the region’s stereotypes.

The Literature of the Ozarks establishes a canon as nuanced and varied as the region’s writers themselves.

Counterculture flourished nationwide in the 1960s and 1970s, and while the hippies of Haight–Ashbury occupied the public eye, further off the beaten path in the Arkansas Ozarks a faction of back to the landers were quietly creating their own counterculture haven. In *Hipbillies*, Jared Phillips collects oral histories and delves into archival resources to provide a fresh scholarly discussion of this group, which was defined by anticonsumerism and a desire for self-sufficiency outside of modern industry.

While there were indeed clashes between long haired hippies and cantankerous locals, Phillips shows how the region has always been a refuge for those seeking a life off the beaten path, and as such, is perhaps one of the last bastions for the dream of self-sufficiency in American life. *Hipbillies* presents a region steeped in tradition coming to terms with the modern world.
Dreams Derailed
Undocumented Youths in the Trump Era

WILLIAM A. SCHWAB

During the 2016 presidential campaign millions of voters, concerned about the economic impact of illegal immigration, rallied behind the notion of a border wall between the United States and Mexico. Well into the Trump presidency, immigration endures as a hotly contested issue in United States politics.

In Dreams Derailed sociologist William A. Schwab shares the stories of immigration reform advocates and follows up on stories told in his 2013 book Right to DREAM, which argued in favor of the DREAM Act that would have provided conditional residency for undocumented youth brought to the United States as children, a version of which was later enacted by executive order and referred to as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Taking as its focal point the Trump administration’s decision to rescind Obama-era DACA protection, Dreams Derailed delves into the economic, political, and social factors that inform the public conversation about immigration, making a clear case for the many benefits of inclusive policies and the protection of undocumented youths. Schwab also takes a close look at the factors that carried Donald Trump to the White House, demonstrates how economic upheaval and the issue of immigration influenced the 2016 presidential election, analyzes current immigration laws, and suggests next steps for reform.

William A. Schwab is a sociologist and university professor at the University of Arkansas. Currently the Director of Education, Research, and Outreach at the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, he researches community, international development, and immigration issues. He is the author of five books, including Right to Dream: Immigration Reform and America’s Future.

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The highly anticipated second edition of the Buffalo River Handbook, written by Kenneth L. Smith, updates and expands the first edition initially published in 2004. The new edition includes the recently completed 28-mile segment of the Buffalo River Trail from U.S. Hwy 64 (Grinder's Ferry) to AR Hwy 14 (Dillard's Ferry) along the Buffalo National River in north Arkansas. Updates and revisions throughout the book describe the current setting with respect to campsite information and amenities, status of historic structures, and geologic conditions of the river and trails.

Ken Smith—conservationist, park planner, and the designer and construction supervisor of most of the eighty miles of the Buffalo River Trail—brings to light in this edition his discerning engineer’s intellect, his photographer’s eye, his love for the outdoors as well as the people and land of the Ozarks and the Buffalo National River, and his passion for the protection and active exploration of our natural resources. An inductee into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame in 2017 for his conservation efforts, Smith offers a three-part guide to the river, complete with maps, diagrams and photographs: insights on geology, wildlife, plants, Native Americans, pioneers, and the history of the development of the Buffalo River as the first National river; a detailed guide describing the entire 146-mile length of the river itself; and a guide for over 150 miles of hiking trails. The Buffalo River Handbook, 2nd edition, is a comprehensive reference encyclopedia, a trail and float guide, and a cultural history of the area of north Arkansas that encompasses the Buffalo River—a jewel in the crown of undammed, free-flowing rivers in Arkansas and the nation.

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The Education of Ernie Dumas
Annals of the Arkansas Political Mind

ERNEST DUMAS

In The Education of Henry Adams, the early twentieth-century classic from which this book derived its name, Adams described the ascent, or descent, of a postwar social and political order into something some called modernity. Dumas follows this evolution, not in the whole of the United States as Adams did, but in insular Arkansas.

Beginning with the defeat of Governor Francis Cherry by Orval Faubus, the son of a hillbilly socialist, at the end of the Joseph McCarthy era, Dumas traces the development of a modern political cast that eventually produced Arkansas’s first president of the United States—also exploring what brought about the second-ever impeachment of an American president.

Dumas has written about politics for more than sixty years, since 1954, the year that the stolid Cherry fell to Faubus. The book is also a political memoir that describes not only Dumas’s education in the ways of politicians but also the politicians’ own education and miseducation in how to win voters and then how to get things done. Through the eyes of a journalist, this book collects the mostly untold stories, often deeply personal, that reveal the inner struggles and sometimes the tribulations of the state’s leaders—Cherry, Faubus, Winthrop Rockefeller, Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, John McClellan, J. William Fulbright, Bill Clinton, Jim Guy Tucker, and others.

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Arkansas Backstories
Quirks, Characters, and Curiosities of the Natural State
(Volume Two)

JOE DAVID RICE

Like its companion book, this second volume of Arkansas Backstories will amaze even the most serious students of the state with more surprising insights. How many people are aware that a world-class yodeler from Zinc ran against John F. Kennedy in 1960 for the top spot on the national Democratic ticket, or that an African American born in Little Rock campaigned for the presidency of the United States nearly 70 years before Shirley Chisholm became, in 1968, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress? Or how many know that bands of blood-thirsty pirates once lurked in the bayous and backwaters of eastern Arkansas, preying on unsuspecting Mississippi River travelers?

Likewise, how many readers will recognize the fact that an English botanist who spent months investigating Arkansas’s flora in the early nineteenth century has been described as the worst explorer in history? Or that Fort Smith hosted the world’s first international UFO conference? Or that the Nielsen rating system has a direct connection to the state, as does Tony Bennett’s signature song, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco”? Such tidbits are among the unexpected elements that make the Natural State so tantalizing.

Written in an informal, conversational style and nicely illustrated, Arkansas Backstories, Volume Two, covering topics starting with the letters M–Z, will be a wonderful addition to the libraries of Arkansans, expats, and anyone else interested in one of America’s most fascinating states.

Joe David Rice, born in Paragould and reared in Jonesboro, is a well-known and respected resource on all things Arkansas. An accomplished promoter of the state as a “must-see-and-experience” destination, Rice served as Arkansas’s tourism director for thirty years, working under five governors. He enjoys exploring the Arkansas countryside, be it by foot, canoe, or car, and unearthing those lesser-known tidbits that make the Natural State so special.

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The Art of Living
Japanese American Incarceration Artwork in the Collection of the CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
EDITED BY KIMBERLY MCDANIEL SANDERS

During World War II, when the United States was at war with the Empire of Japan, the Japanese American community suffered an incredible injustice. Made to leave their homes to be confined in facilities across the United States, Americans of Japanese descent were vilified by American society and denied their rights as citizens by the U.S. government.

Despite this grave injustice, these Americans demonstrated loyalty to their country by cooperating with the government’s decision to remove them from their homes. Even as they were confined in shoddy prison camps behind barbed wire—separated from their former communities and denied their livelihoods—most chose to seek happiness rather than dwell on the unfairness of the situation.

The Art of Living explores the role of art in the lives of these incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II at the Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Centers in southeastern Arkansas through selected works held by the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock.

The collection features paintings, drawings, woodwork, and other objects of art created by children and adults during their time in the two Arkansas incarceration camps. This richly illustrated catalogue highlights over 150 of these objects that reflect the indomitable spirit of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated in the wartime America of the 1940s.

This project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.
Raised to Serve, Selected to Lead
Lessons for New Military and Civilian Leaders

ROBERT F. GRIFFIN, MD

After successful careers in both the military and the corporate world, Robert F. Griffin shares his formula for building effective leadership. Griffin, a retired U.S. Army surgeon and former executive officer at Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, writes that the characteristics promoted in this book are those that the author derived from the leadership techniques or styles of the admirable leaders with whom he served. Griffin also relates his preparation for a lifetime of service through his experiences as a youth growing up in a military family.

FEBRUARY
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Robert F. Griffin, MD is a former Army general surgeon who retired as a brigadier general. Following his retirement from the Army he served as Senior Medical Director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, Chairman of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association’s National Council of Physician and Pharmacy Executives, and Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

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Tim Ernst is Arkansas’ Wilderness Photographer. His photographs have appeared in hundreds of national, regional and local publications. Some of his credits include National Geographic, Audubon, Backpacker, Outside, Outdoor Photographer, American Hiker, Natural History, Country, Chevy Outdoors, and Arkansas Times magazines, Sierra Club and Hallmark calendars, National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service maps and brochures, Readers Digest Books, and The New York Times.
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“This book is a hamlet, a jewel box, a compass. Sham-e-Ali Nayeem strings the tender odds and ends of memory into a dazzling odyssey across the continents of daughterhood and motherhood. We are born from places as much as people, these poems remind us. City of Pearls soars with the dignity mined from a life lit with leavings.”
—Yolanda Wisher, author of Monk Eats an Afro

“There is nothing more important to love than memory, and Sham-e-Ali’s stunning debut collection is full of love. Awash in the fragrance of mourning and yearning, these poems stretch out, split into tributaries, condense into coral clouds—above all, they nourish. Both affectionate and merciless, this book is a ‘place where it all worked out.’ It is a gift to breathe with it.”
—Bao Phi, author of Thousand Star Hotel
The stories in Amanda Marbais’s *Claiming a Body* read like dispatches from a frontline strewn with infected relationships, metastasizing anxieties, and cultural fatigue. Propelled by sympathetic characters and assertive voices that both capture and convey a uniquely contemporary dread, these virtual confessions reveal life at its most negotiable: a woman overcomes her fear of both commitment and grizzlies in the unspoiled wilderness of Glacier National Park; a couple cons friends one last time in the decaying rustbelt before turning on each other; the son of a poultry farmer struggles with inhumane practices while resisting the undercurrent of violence in his high school.

Just as Marbais’ characters seek to cross painful thresholds and unearth their better selves, her collection finds ways to communicate across traditional genre lines, bringing together such disparate styles as noir, environmental fiction, and speculative fiction. Woven throughout is a hard-wrought prose that crackles with a steady stream of references to the modern American landscape that is frequently to blame for the chaos left in its wake.
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