

HUB CITY PRESS
2019 CATALOG

Advance Praise for
THE MAGNETIC GIRL

“Handler captures the ambivalence of female adolescence, where the newfound ability to captivate others exists in unsteady balance with the fear of loss of independence. A thoroughly fresh historical novel that both captures the essence of its time and echoes challenges that still exist today.”

—**KIRKUS REVIEWS, STARRED REVIEW**

“Like the powers of Lulu Hurst, Jessica Handler’s literary power feels like a sleight of hand. It’s impossible that a novel can be this beautiful, this haunting, and this resonant, but your eyes (and your heart) are not deceiving you. *The Magnetic Girl* is a gorgeous, brutal book: an alchemy of love, fear, fate, and hope.”

—**WILEY CASH**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Ballad*

“Jessica Handler brings history to glorious life in a captivating tale anchored by masterful writing, especially the vivid, unique voice she gives to Lulu Hurst. With deft pacing that kept me turning pages long into the night, Handler lights up Lulu’s fascinating trajectory into a strange kind of stardom and beyond. The world sees Lulu, a natural mesmerist, as a person with mystical talents, but at its heart, this is the story of a young woman stepping boldly and at last into her true powers. *The Magnetic Girl* is something special. Don’t miss it.”

—**JOSHILYN JACKSON**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Almost Sisters*

“*The Magnetic Girl* is a compassionate, clear-eyed coming-of-age tale unlike anything I’ve read. The story belongs to Lulu Hurst, but Handler is the one doing the true mesmerizing. What a unique, accomplished debut!”

—**THERESE ANN FOWLER**, *New York Times* bestselling author of
A Well-Behaved Woman: A Novel of the Vanderbilts

“A heartwarming tale of the sacrifices we make for family, the delusions we fall for in the name of love, and the human need to keep on dreaming despite it all. Mesmerizing.”

—**THOMAS MULLEN**, author of *Darktown*

THE MAGNETIC GIRL

by Jessica Handler

In rural North Georgia two decades after the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Lulu Hurst reaches high into her father's bookshelf and pulls out an obscure book, *The Truth of Mesmeric Influence*. Deemed gangly and undesirable, she wants more than a lifetime of caring for her disabled baby brother, Leo, with whom she shares a profound and supernatural mental connection.

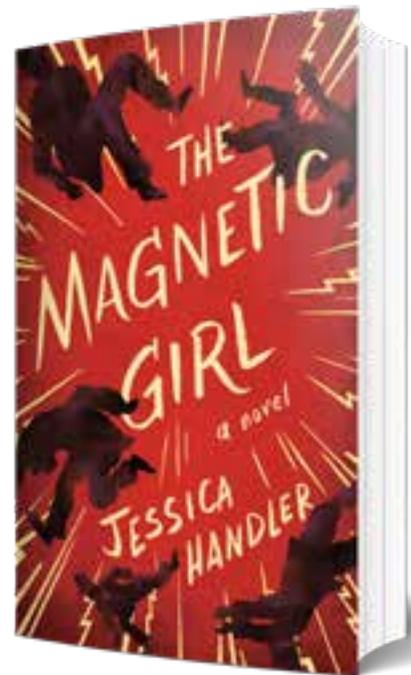
Lulu begins to “captivate” her friends and family, controlling their thoughts and actions for brief moments at a time. After Lulu convinces a cousin she conducts electricity with her touch, her father sees a unique opportunity. He grooms his tall and indelicate daughter into an electrifying new woman: *The Magnetic Girl*. Lulu travels the Eastern seaboard, captivating enthusiastic crowds by lifting grown men in parlor chairs and throwing them across the stage with her “electrical charge.”

While adjusting to life on the vaudeville stage, Lulu harbors a secret belief that she can use her newfound gifts, as well as her growing notoriety, to heal her brother. As she delves into the mysterious book's pages, she discovers keys to her father's past and her own future.

Gorgeously envisioned, and based on a true story, *The Magnetic Girl* is set at a time when the emerging presence of electricity raised suspicions about the other-worldly gospel of Spiritualism, and when women's desire for political, cultural, and sexual presence electrified the country. Squarely in the realm of Emma Donoghue's *The Wonder* and Leslie Parry's *Church of Marvels*, *The Magnetic Girl* is a unique portrait of a forgotten period in history, seen through the story of one young woman's power over her family, her community, and ultimately, herself.



JESSICA HANDLER is the author of *Braving the Fire: A Guide to Writing About Grief* and *Invisible Sisters: A Memoir*. Jessica writes essays and nonfiction features that have appeared on NPR, in *Tin House*, *Drunken Boat*, *Full Grown People*, *Brevity*, *Newsweek*, and *The Washington Post*.



APRIL

\$27 · Trade Cloth · 6" x 9" · 280 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-48-1 · eBook: 978-1938235-49-8

Rights: World

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Blurbs from New York Times Bestselling authors Wiley Cash, Joshilyn Jackson, Therese Ann Fowler, and others
- Off-the-book essay placement
- Indie Next push and library outreach
- Goodreads and Amazon review campaigns
- Social media influencer campaign

LET ME OUT HERE

by Emily Pease

In her debut collection, Emily W. Pease is at work redefining the short story. *Let Me Out Here* explores the underbellies and strange desires of our neighbors, our loved ones, ourselves.

A co-ed takes up with a mysterious cab driver who's been calling every night on her dormitory's hall phone; a family isolated by their faith hikes to a waterfall in search of healing; a mother sets her balcony on fire after an awkward family dinner; a woman befriends the snakes her preacher boyfriend keeps in their shed. This revealing collection offers a deep empathy for people doing the best they can, despite themselves.

Spread over varied landscapes of the South and offering surprising moments of raw revelation, the characters here find themselves at crossroads or alone on an empty street at night. With *Let Me Out Here*, Pease joins the ranks of Mary Gaitskill, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Kelly Link, and adds to their tradition a deft, singular style and a voice as darkly funny as it is exacting.

Let Me Out Here is the 2018 winner of the C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize.

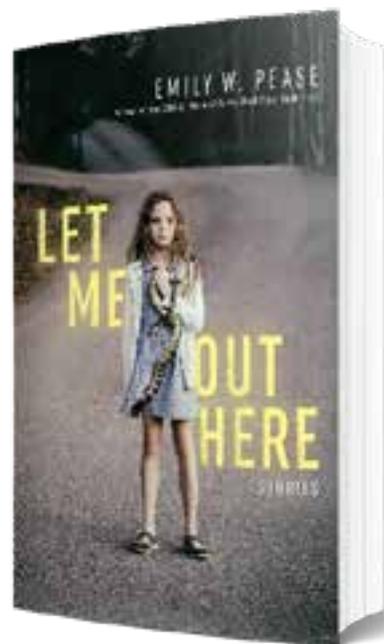


EMILY W. PEASE'S stories have appeared in the *Missouri Review*, the *Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Crazyhorse*, the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Narrative*, and *Witness*. After teaching for many years at the College of William & Mary, she now teaches writing to veterans through the Armed Services Arts Partnership, where she also serves as a member of their arts council. She lives in Williamsburg, VA.

“A compelling examination of what it means to survive when thriving seems to be an option only for other people.”

—KIRKUS REVIEWS

FICTION



MARCH

\$16 • Trade Paper • 6" x 9" • 208 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-50-4 • eBook: 978-1938235-51-1

Rights: World

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Blurbs from Claire Messud, Amelia Gray, Cheston Knapp, Bret Anthony Johnston
- Significant review coverage and book awards push
- Author tour across the Appalachian South
- Interview and story placement in prominent outlets

GATHER AT THE RIVER

by David Joy and Eric Rickstad

From editors David Joy and Eric Rickstad comes *Gather at the River*, an anthology of twenty-five remarkable essays on fishing from an ensemble of contemporary authors. Their experiences explore the ways we come to water, for renewal and reverie, or to simply stand waist-deep in a river and watch the trout rise.

Gather at The River is more than a collection of big fish stories; it's Ron Rash writing about the Appalachia of his youth and New York Times Bestselling author C.J. Box revealing the river where he wants his ashes spread. It's Natalie Baszile on a frogging expedition in the Louisiana Bayou and a teenaged Jill McCorkle facing new realities of adulthood on Holden Beach, North Carolina. This is an anthology about friendship, family, love and loss, and everything in between, because as Henry David Thoreau wrote, "it is not really the fish they are after."

CONTRIBUTORS

Natalie Baszile, Frank Bill, William Boyle, C.J. Box, Taylor Brown, Todd Davis, Scott Gould, Leigh Ann Henion, Silas House, Rebecca Gayle Howell, Gabino Iglesias, Drew Lanham, Jill McCorkle, Ray McManus, Jim Minick, Chris Offutt, Mark Powell, Ron Rash, J.C. Sasser, J. Todd Scott, Michael Farris Smith, Erik Storey, Ingrid Thoft, and M. O. Walsh

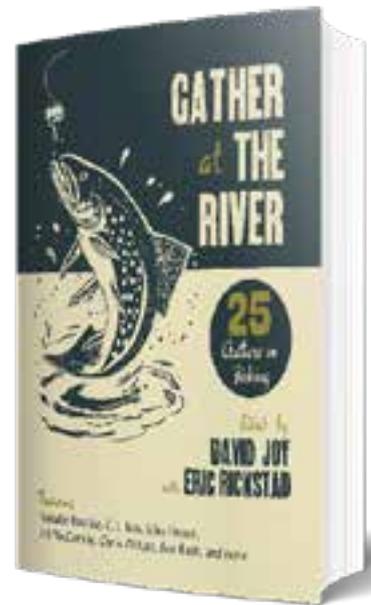


DAVID JOY is the author of the Edgar nominated novel *Where All Light Tends to Go*, as well as the novels *The Weight of This World* and *The Line That Held Us*. He is also the author of the memoir *Growing Gills: A Fly Fisherman's Journey*. Joy lives in Plott Creek, NC.

“Come for the fish stories, but stay for the writing. It sparkles like the flank of a mullet, thumps like the tail of a bull redfish, and leaps off the page like a tarpon.”

—DAVID DIBENEDETTO

NONFICTION



MAY

\$18 · Trade Paper · 7" x 9" · 208 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-52-8 · eBook: 978-1938235-53-5

Rights: World

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- ARCs sent to reviewers and e-galleys available
- Outreach to fishing and outdoor magazines
- Promotion for Father's Day Gift Guides
- Goodreads and Amazon review campaigns
- Social media influencer campaign
- Outdoor recreation stores

A WILD EDEN

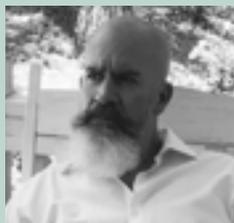
by Scott Sharpe

When Jack Parker's father dies Jack knows one thing: Tom Parker was a good man. Beyond that, decades of distance and silence had kept the two men from truly knowing each other. Jack attends the funeral with the hope he can shovel some dirt onto Tom's casket, collect a few commiserations, and put miles between himself and the questions he'd let simmer since he'd left home years before. But when a group of strangers appears at the funeral, Jack realizes he has more questions than answers about how his father actually lived his life.

Jack picks up the pieces, moving back home to help his ailing mother and continue work on his father's many projects. He soon finds himself at the center of a family maelstrom, worsened by his troubled siblings' lives and continued unearthings of Tom's secrecy. Haunted by hazy nightmares from his youth and driven by guilt, Jack tries to uncover why his father kept such a considerable part of his life from them all. The secrets Jack uncovers might shake the foundation of the refuge he hopes to create.

Suddenly thrust into a dangerous world of drug deals and violence, Jack is forced to examine his own brutal limits and those of his father. When finally faced with the truth of his and Tom's past, he realizes that sometimes secrets are best left buried on the river bottom.

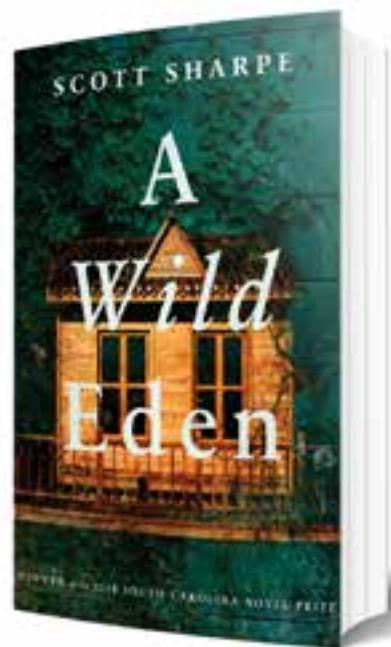
A Wild Eden was the 2018 South Carolina Novel Prize winner, selected by Jill McCorkle.



SCOTT SHARPE was born and raised in the Sandhills of central South Carolina and graduated from the University of South Carolina. He lives in Eastover, SC, and currently works for the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office.

“A *Wild Eden* is the compelling story of a son’s journey to understand his father.”
—JILL MCCORKLE

FICTION



AUGUST

\$16 · Trade Paper · 6" x 9" · 230 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-57-3 · eBook: 978-1938235-58-0

Rights: World

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- South Carolina-wide library speaking tour
- Southern indie bookseller outreach
- ARCs and e-galleys available
- Social media advertising
- Review coverage in regional print magazines

DUSK & DUST

by Esteban Rodríguez

Set along the U.S.-Mexico border, *Dusk & Dust* introduces the voice of a “boy straddled on the valley of two geographies.” With a keen eye, gentle humor, and great empathy, Esteban Rodríguez’s debut collection explores the lives of the generations who have made their homes in a landscape too often neglected and forgotten. Like the region they portray—relentless, unsympathetic, singed with uncertainty—these poems are marked with a visceral beauty. The aroma of cattle mingles with steaming tamales, and carnival organs play behind telenovelas in this richly conjured and mercurial world. Through the eyes of his luchador mask, with a foot planted firmly on either side of the fence, the young speaker grapples with a host of cultural and familial expectations, a tenuous grasp on his family’s language, and his own burgeoning identity. Funny and poignant, *Dusk & Dust* lays out a labyrinth of cultural expectations, and, with a voice as clear as it is unique, illuminates a world that seeks to be remembered and lived.

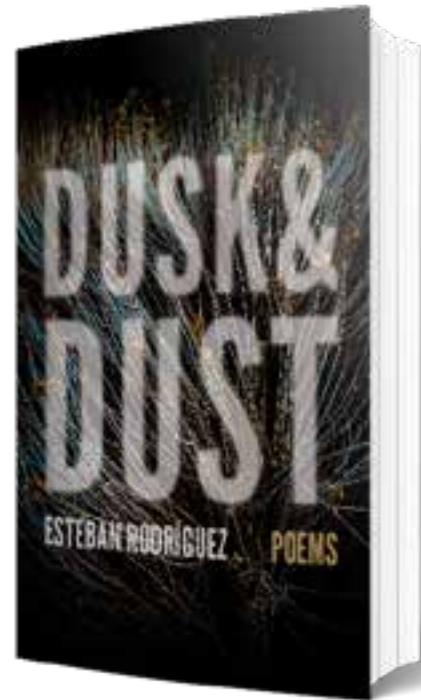


ESTEBAN RODRÍGUEZ’S poetry has appeared in various publications, including *The Gettysburg Review*, *New England Review*, *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, *Water-Stone Review*, *Washington Square Review*, and *Puerto del Sol*. A native of the Rio Grande Valley, he currently lives with his family and teaches in Austin, Texas.

“These poems shimmer with surprising phrasing and dazzling figurative language.”
—EDUARDO CORRAL

“A vivid and careful collection.”
—CARRIE FOUNTAIN

POETRY



SEPTEMBER

\$14.95 • Trade Paper • 6" x 9" • 60 pages

ISBN: 978-1-938235-55-9 • eBook: 978-1938235-56-6

Rights: World

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Author tour
- Poem and essay placement in prominent outlets
- National review outreach
- Indie bookseller campaign
- Social media outreach

NEW IN PAPERBACK

WHISKEY & RIBBONS

by Leesa Cross-Smith

Set in contemporary Louisville, Leesa Cross-Smith's mesmerizing first novel surrounding the death of a police officer is a requiem for marriage, friendship and family, from an author Roxane Gay has called "a consummate storyteller."

Evi—a classically-trained ballerina—was nine months pregnant when her husband Eamon was killed in the line of duty on a steamy morning in July. Now, it is winter, and Eamon's adopted brother Dalton has moved in to help her raise six-month-old Noah.

Whiskey & Ribbons is told in three intertwining, melodic voices: Evi in present day, as she's snowed in with Dalton during a freak blizzard; Eamon before his murder, as he prepares for impending fatherhood and grapples with the danger of his profession; and Dalton, as he struggles to make sense of his life next to Eamon's, and as he decides to track down the biological father he's never known.

In the vein of Jojo Moyes' *After You*, *Whiskey & Ribbons* explores the life that continues beyond loss, with a complicated brotherly dynamic reminiscent of Elizabeth Strout's *The Burgess Boys*. It's a meditation on grief, hope, motherhood, brotherhood and surrogate fatherhood. Above all, it's a novel about what it means—and whether it's possible—to heal.



A PEN Open Book Award Nominee, **LEESA CROSS-SMITH** has been a finalist for the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and Iowa Short Fiction Award. She is the author of the short story collection *Every Kiss a War* and lives in Louisville, KY

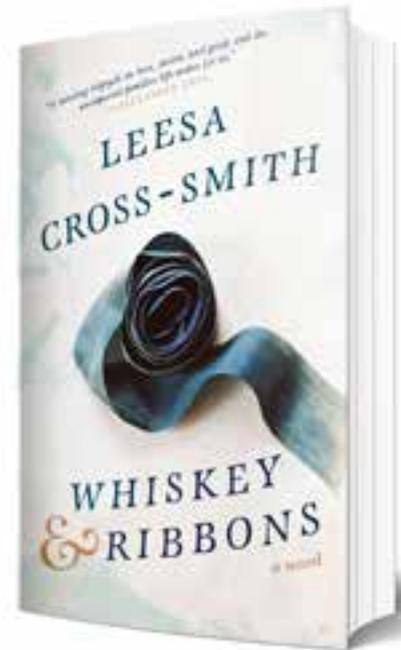
AN **AMAZON** BEST BOOK OF THE MONTH

A BEST BOOK OF THE SUMMER BY *O MAGAZINE*

A BEST SOUTHERN BOOK OF THE YEAR BY *SOUTHERN LIVING*

A "MUST-READ MARCH RELEASE" BY *BOOK RIOT*

ONE OF 2018'S MOST ANTICIPATED BOOKS: *Southern Living, EW, Harper's Bazaar, The Millions, Electric Lit, Book RIOT, Bookbub, Chicago Review of Books, PopSugar, Refinery29, Nylon, The Root, The Bitter Southerner, Parade, and She Reads*



SEPTEMBER

\$16 • Trade Paper • 6" x 9" • 268 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-54-2 • eBook: 978-1938235-39-9

Rights: North American

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Book club outreach
- Goodreads and Amazon review campaigns
- Social media influencer campaign

WATERSHED

by Mark Barr

Set in 1937 in rural Tennessee, with the construction of a monumental dam serving as background—a cinematically biblical effort to harness elemental forces and bring power to the people—*Watershed* delivers a gripping story of characters whose ambitions and yearnings threaten to overflow the banks of their time and place. Nathan, an engineer hiding from his past, and Claire, a small-town housewife, struggle to find their footing in the newly-electrified, job-hungry, post-Depression South. As Nathan wrestles with the burdens of a secret guilt and tangled love, Claire struggles to balance motherhood and a newfound freedom that awakens ambitions and a sexuality she hadn't known she possessed.

The arrival of electricity in the rural community—where violence, prostitution, and dog-fighting are commonplace—thrusts together the federal and local worlds, in an evocative feat of storytelling in the vein of Kent Haruf's *Plainsong*, and Ron Rash's *Serena*.

MARK BARR has been awarded fellowships from Blue Mountain Center, I-Park Artists' Enclave, Jentel Arts, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center, Millay Colony, and Yaddo, and holds an M.F.A. from Texas State University. He lives with his wife and sons in Arkansas, where he develops software and bakes bread.

“Watershed will leave you charged and enlightened.”

—SMITH HENDERSON

FICTION



OCTOBER

\$26 • Trade Cloth • 6" x 9" • 264 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-59-7 • eBook: 978-1938235-60-3

Rights: North American

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Blurbs from Smith Henderson, Doug Dorst and others
- Indie Next push and library outreach
- Goodreads and Amazon review campaigns
- Branded tour with prominent literary magazine
- Social media influencer campaign

THE PRETTIEST STAR

by Carter Sickels

Small-town Appalachia doesn't have a lot going for it, but it's where Brian is from, where his family is, and where he's chosen to return to die.

In 1980, at eighteen, Brian, like so many other promising young gay men, arrived in New York City without much more than a love for the freedom and release from his past that it promised. But within six short years, AIDS would claim his lover, his friends, and his future. With nothing left in New York but memories of death, Brian decides to write his mother a letter asking to come back to the place he was once so desperate to escape.

The Prettiest Star is part *Dog Years* by Mark Doty and part *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt. The resulting novel is as harrowing and full of life as any contemporaneous document from that time. But it is also an urgent story now: it is a novel about the politics and fragility of the body; it is a novel about sex and shame. And it is a novel that speaks to a new generation of readers, both queer and straight, who have struggled with the question of what home and family means when we try to forge a life for ourselves in a world that can be harsh and unpredictable. It is written at the far reaches of love and understanding, and zeroes in on the moments where those two forces reach for each other, and sometimes touch.

CARTER SICKELS is the author of the novel *The Evening Hour*, a Finalist for the 2013 Oregon Book Award and the Lambda Literary Debut Fiction Award. He is the recipient of the 2013 Lambda Literary Emerging Writer Award.

FICTION



APRIL 2020

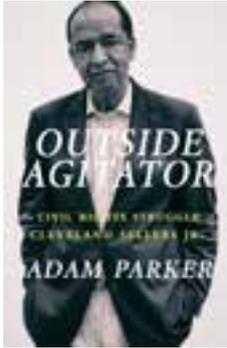
\$26 · Trade Cloth · 6" x 9"

Rights: North American

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

- Indie Next push and library outreach
- Goodreads and Amazon review campaigns
- Branded tour with prominent literary magazine
- Social media influencer campaign

RECENT BACKLIST



OUTSIDE AGITATOR by Adam Parker

\$18 · Trade Paper · 6" x 9" · 280 pages

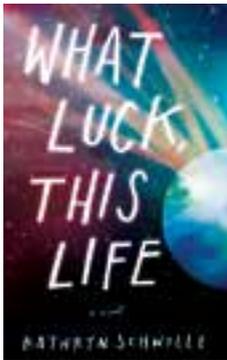
ISBN: 978-1938235-45-0 · eBook: 978-1938235-46-7

Rights: World

Adam Parker's incisive biography is about a proud black man who refuses to be defeated, whose tumultuous life story personifies America's continuing civil rights struggle.

"An illuminating study of both a man and a decadeslong civil rights struggle." —*Kirkus*

Starred Review from *Library Journal*



WHAT LUCK, THIS LIFE by Kathryn Schille

\$18 · Trade Cloth · 5" x 8" · 216 pages

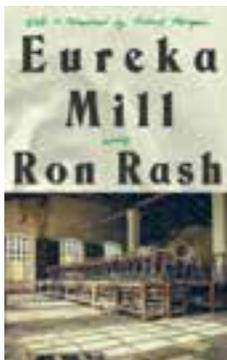
ISBN: 978-1938235-42-9 · eBook: 978-1938235-43-6

Rights: World

The Columbia space shuttle and its contents rain down on the people of Kiser, Texas, in Kathryn Schille's imaginative debut novel that opens six weeks before the invasion of Iraq.

"Schille's richly descriptive debut novel weaves local drama into a national trauma to illustrate how regular people's lives play out beyond the headlines." —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Schille's keen alertness to human strength and foible brings to mind the late Doris Betts. *What Luck, This Life* is nothing short of magnificent." —*Charlotte Observer*



EUREKA MILL by Ron Rash

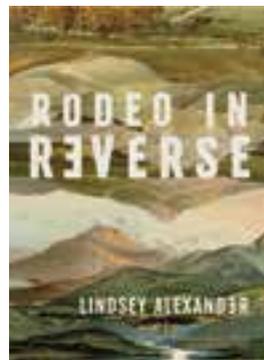
\$14.95 · Trade Paper · 6" x 9" · 96 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-42-9

eBook: 978-1938235-43-6

Rights: World

"As exhibited in *Eureka Mill*, his finely honed craftsmanship is most salient in his poetry, which has a casual, addictive appeal." —*Publishers Weekly*



RODEO IN REVERSE by Lindsey Alexander

\$14.95 · Trade Paper · 6.5" x 8.5" · 80 pages

ISBN: 978-1938235-40-5

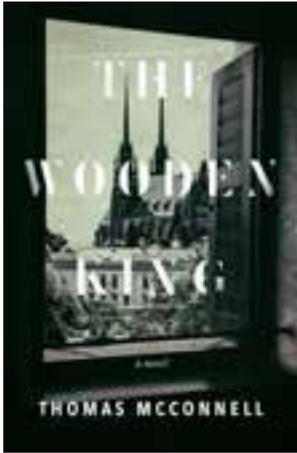
eBook: 978-1938235-41-2

Rights: World

"A one-of-a-kind collection that crosses great swaths of geography and genre."

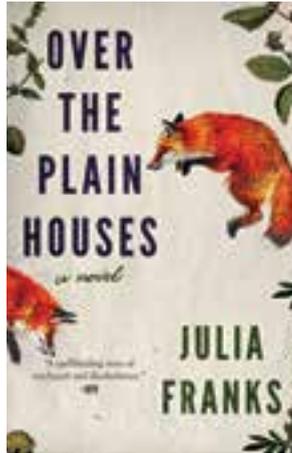
—*Chicago Review of Books*

RECENT BACKLIST



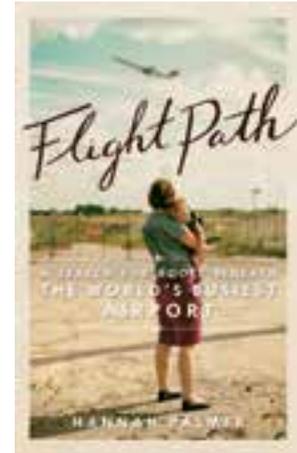
THE WOODEN KING by Thomas McConnell

\$16.95 · Trade Paper · 6" x 9" · 324 pages
ISBN: 978-1938235-37-5
eBook: 978-1938235-36-8
Rights: World



OVER THE PLAIN HOUSES by Julia Franks

\$16 · Trade Paper · 6" x 9" · 280 pages
ISBN: 978-1938235-34-4
eBook: 978-1938235-22-1
Rights: World



FLIGHT PATH *A Search for Roots beneath the World's Busiest Airport* by Hannah Palmer

\$16.95 · Trade Paper · 5.5" x 8.5" · 216 pages
ISBN: 978-1938235-28-3 · Rights: World

BOOK PRIZES

C. MICHAEL CURTIS SHORT STORY BOOK PRIZE

Annual, Submissions December – April

This \$10,000 prize is open to emerging writers in thirteen Southern states who have no previously published books.

NEW SOUTHERN VOICES POETRY PRIZE

Biennial, Submissions January – April

Open to all Southern poets with no more than one previously published full-length collection.

SOUTH CAROLINA NOVEL PRIZE

Biennial, Submissions January – March

Any South Carolina writer may enter the competition, including those who have never had a novel published.

ANNOUNCING THE CHARLES FRAZIER COLD MOUNTAIN FUND SERIES

Charles Frazier, Hub City Press Team up for Brand New Book Series



The COLD MOUNTAIN Fund
S E R I E S



National Book Award Winner Charles Frazier and Hub City Press are teaming up on a new series of books spotlighting extraordinary writers from the American South. Beginning in spring 2019, the Cold Mountain Fund Series will publish literary fiction in hardback.

Frazier, best-selling author of “Cold Mountain” and “Varina,” will provide financial support through the Frazier family’s Cold Mountain Fund at the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. Frazier also will assist in book promotion and make occasional appearances with the Cold Mountain Fund Series authors.

The first three books in the series will be *The Magnetic Girl* by Jessica Handler of Atlanta (April 2019), *Watershed* by Mark Barr of Little Rock (September 2019), and *The Prettiest Star* by Carter Sickels of Lexington, KY (April 2020).

“I have long considered Hub City Press to be one of the very finest independent publishers in the country and am excited to help foster their already excellent offerings of literary fiction,” Frazier said.

Hub City Press, now in its 24th year, is the South’s premier independent literary press. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Hub City is focused on finding and publishing new and extraordinary voices from the South. Among its recent successes are an NPR Book of the Year, a *Kirkus* Book of the Year, a book longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and coverage in *The Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*.



PUBLISHING
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