



2020 CATALOG & NOTABLE BACKLIST

BURROW PRESS | ORLANDO, FL





ORDERING INFORMATION

Burrow Press books are distributed to the trade by Itasca Books,
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MEET BURROW

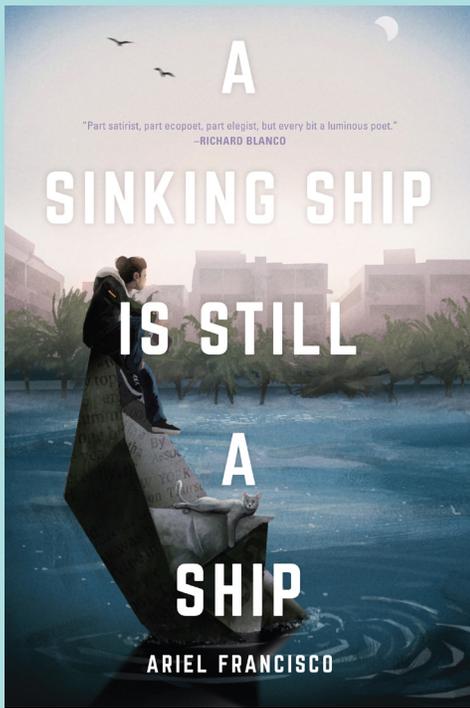
Burrow Press is an independent literary publisher based in Orlando, FL. BP books have been reviewed positively in publications such as Publisher's Weekly, Booklist, Kirkus, Tampa Bay Times, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and San Francisco Chronicle. BP books have won an IPPY Gold Medal, have twice been shortlisted for the Firecracker Fiction Award, once long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, and twice considered for the ALA's Notable Books List.

OUR BOOKSTORE ORIGINS

Burrow Press is familiar with both the challenges and joys of running an indie bookstore. Our publisher worked for Orlando's only independent bookstore (Urban Think) until it had to close its doors in 2010. But out of the dust came Urban Think Foundation, the very nonprofit organization that funds Burrow Press. Every day we do our best to produce great literature, and we appreciate everything you do to get our books into the hands of readers.

MORE THAN BOOKS

Burrow Press' mission is to publish the best contemporary literature, as well as foster literary community in Orlando, Florida, and beyond. Through our print books, online journal, free community events, and children's literacy programs, BP has provided thousands of opportunities for writers to publish and share their work.



Release Date: April 21, 2020

\$16 | Paperback | Poetry

6" x 9" | 160 pages

ISBN: 978-1-941681-62-6

LCCN: 2019945963

English with Spanish translations

Links to press kit, excerpt,
and Edelweiss+ galley at:
burrowpress.com/ship

Ariel Francisco's work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Academy of American Poets*, *The American Poetry Review*, and elsewhere. A poet and translator born in the Bronx to Dominican and Guatemalan parents and raised in Miami, he is the author of the poetry collections *A Sinking Ship is Still a Ship* and *All My Heroes Are Broke*. He lives in Brooklyn.

A Sinking Ship is Still a Ship

POETRY BY ARIEL FRANCISCO

with Spanish translations by José Nicolás Cabrera-Schneider.

In Ariel Francisco's Miami, invasive lionfish are sympathetic creatures, the beach succumbs to sea-level rise, and "305 till I die" is a cry for help. The speakers in these hilarious and melancholy poems depict a rich and varied emotional landscape that mirrors that of the state they long to leave, dead or alive. They imagine themselves standing on ocean garbage patches, contemplate the crabgrass on traffic medians, and envision the new beauty of a submerged Miami Beach: "Famed art deco replaced by fire coral / and colorful parrot fish, neon lights / restored by pulsating swarms of moon / jellyfish, lit up like a Saturday night." In one moment the strange becomes familiar, only to become strange again in the next stanza. Taking inspiration from Campbell McGrath and Richard Blanco, among others, Ariel Francisco's second book of poems deals with climate change and the absurdities and difficulties of being a millennial Latinx in the Sunshine State.

PRAISE FOR A *SINKING SHIP*...

"Part satirist, part eco poet, part elegist, but every bit a luminous poet, Ariel Francisco brilliantly voices the complex intersections of the physical, emotional, and natural landscapes that define our sense of place and belonging, as well as our feelings of alienation and ennui."

—RICHARD BLANCO author of *How to Love a Country*

"How could I not be a fan of Ariel Francisco's bittersweet *Floribeño* flow? Like other great books about the Sunshine State, this one does not shy away from its weirdness, its darkness, and its harsh ironies. Still, amid UFOs over the Everglades, the sinking utopia of Miami, and the concatenations of chain stores and lives underwater (in every sense), Francisco finds the lyric metaphysics of our embodied tropics."

—URAYOÁN NOEL author of *Buzzing Hemisphere / Rumor Hemisférico*

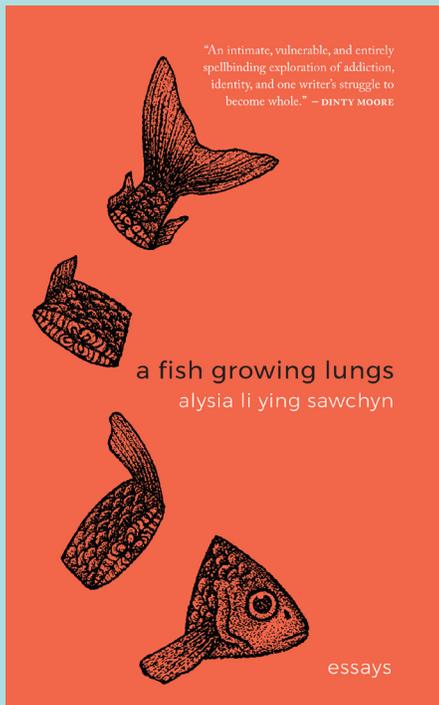
"The title *A Sinking Ship is Still a Ship* holds the secret to Ariel Francisco's sincere and quirky vision. Quirky in its own way. But *sincere*? Isn't that a terribly old fashioned quality? You know, dear reader, it's about time to claim a bit of that back, humor and all. Enjoy."

—KIMIKO HAHN author of *Foreign Bodies*

"The world of this book is urgent and vivid and brilliantly imagined."

—NICOLE COOLEY author of *Of Marriage*





Release Date: June 9, 2020

\$16 | Paperback | Essays

5" x 8" | 170 pages

ISBN: 978-1-941681-66-4

LCCN: 2019948281

Links to press kit, excerpt,
and Edelweiss+ galley at:
burrowpress.com/fish

Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn is a features editor for *The Rumpus* and currently lives in Northern Virginia. Her writing has appeared in *Fourth Genre*, *Brevity*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. *A Fish Growing Lungs* is her first book.



A Fish Growing Lungs

ESSAYS BY ALYSIA LI YING SAWCHYN

“An intimate, vulnerable, and entirely spellbinding exploration of addiction, identity, and one writer’s struggle to become whole.”

—DINTY MOORE author of *Between Panic & Desire*

At age 18 Alysia Sawchyn was diagnosed with bipolar I. Seven years later she learned she had been misdiagnosed. *A Fish Growing Lungs* takes the form of linked essays that reflect on Sawchyn’s diagnosis and its unraveling, the process of withdrawal and recovery, and the search for identity as she emerges from a difficult past into a cautiously hopeful present.

Sawchyn captures the precariousness of life under the watchful eye of doctors, friends, and family, in which saying or doing the wrong thing could lead to involuntary confinement. This scrutiny is compounded by the stigmas of mental illness and the societal expectations placed on the bodies of women and women of color. And yet, amid juggling medications, doubting her diagnosis, and struggling with addiction and cutting, there is also joy, friendship, love, and Slayer concerts.

Funny, intelligent, and unflinchingly honest, Sawchyn explores how we can come to know ourselves when our bodies betray us. Drawing from life experience, literature, music, medical journals, films, and recovery communities, each essay illuminates the richness of self-knowledge that comes from the act of writing itself.

PRAISE FOR A FISH GROWING LUNGS

“Probing & emotionally intelligent.”

—ELENA PASSARELLO author of *Animals Strike Curious Poses*

“This new voice in American literature
will command your attention.”

—IRA SUKRUNGRUANG author of *Buddha’s Dog & Other Meditations*

“An admirable addition to the literature of illness and recovery.”

—ROBIN HEMLEY author of *NOLA: a Memoir of Faith, Art & Madness*

“At once heartfelt and intellectually rigorous.”

—KYOKO MORI author of *Yarn, Remembering the Way Home*

Venus in Retrograde

POEMS BY SUSAN LILLEY

Past Winner of the Rita Dove Poetry Award

Synopsis: In a voice both lyrical and conversational, Orlando Poet Laureate Susan Lilley interprets various stages of womanhood while parsing the beauty and decay of her beloved home state of Florida.

PRAISE FOR *VENUS IN RETROGRADE*

“Susan Lilley’s clear speaking voice combines with her knack for striking images and metaphors to create a tone that is both intimate and inventive. It’s hard to stop reading these open-hearted accounts that follow her life from girlhood to womanhood in charming poems, often erotic and always richly detailed.”

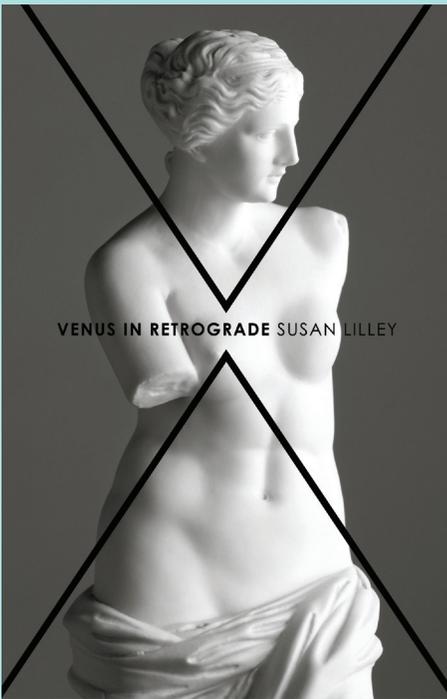
–BILLY COLLINS

“Whenever the Planet of Love twirls in reverse, the resultant mayhem leaves us wired and twitchy, heart-shattered, bedeviled and deliciously disturbed. The Mistress Lilley strides resolutely into the chaos, hefting deftly-crafted stanzas that rejigger our staid realities and addict us to the spin.”

–PATRICIA SMITH author of *Incendiary Art*

“The braiding of the sublime and the quotidian wends itself throughout and becomes a powerful reckoning of one’s life. Lilley’s voice is steeped in hard-earned lyrical wisdom, one that surveys life with an inter-generational lens.”

–BRIAN TURNER author of *My Life as a Foreign Country*



Release Date: April 30, 2019

\$20 | Hardcover | Poetry

5.5" x 8.5" | 124 pages

ISBN: 978-1-941681-79-4

LCCN: 2018962240

Links to press kit, excerpt,
and Edelweiss+ galley at:
burrowpress.com/venus



Susan Lilley’s two chapbooks are *Night Windows* and *Satellite Beach*. She is a past winner of the Rita Dove Poetry Award and is currently serving as the city of Orlando’s first Poet Laureate.



Radio Dark

A NOVEL BY SHANE HINTON

Synopsis: *Radio Dark* fuses Cormac McCarthy’s visceral realism with Daniil Kharms’ absurdist sensibility to create a uniquely surreal post-apocalyptic novel. As in Hinton’s debut, *Pinkies* (a CLMP Firecracker Award Finalist), deadpan humor lurks just below the surface of this bleak tale.

A mysterious condition sweeps the country, leaving its victims in a catatonic state. The power grid fails and the world goes dark. Somewhere in Florida, where the sprawling suburbs meet a dying citrus grove, a janitor at a small community radio station, an FCC field agent, and a DJ attempt to restore order and humanity. They build a radio tower to recruit survivors. As newcomers arrive and occupy the homes of the affected, a community grows and thrives. But when supplies dwindle and more people succumb to the condition, a doomsday preacher arrives to test the limits of the community; and the radio tower, once seen as a marvel, begins to look like an abomination.

Release Date: August 20, 2019

\$16 | Paperback | Fiction
5" x 8" | 130 pages
ISBN:978-1-941681-60-2
LCCN:2018965845

Links to press kit, excerpt,
and Edelweiss+ galley at:
burrowpress.com/dark



Shane Hinton is the author of the story collection *Pinkies* and editor of the anthology *We Can’t Help It If We’re From Florida*. He teaches writing at the University of Tampa and lives in the winter strawberry capital of the world.

PRAISE FOR RADIO DARK

“Hinton has a hold on a post-apocalyptic setting in a way that would make the author of the *Book of Revelation* proud. *Radio Dark* melds *The Road* with *Mad Max* with *The Walking Dead*. Welcome to the wondrous world of Shane Hinton.”

—GEORGE SINGLETON author of *Staff Picks*

“A book about what it means to own and live inside a failing physical body, as well as a failing community body.”

—KRISTEN ARNETT author of *Mostly Dead Things*

“Hinton shares Kristen Roupenian and Carmen Maria Machado’s ability to conjure stealthy dystopia and define a sharp-edged line between reality and the dull insanity that lurks just beneath the universe his characters inhabit.”

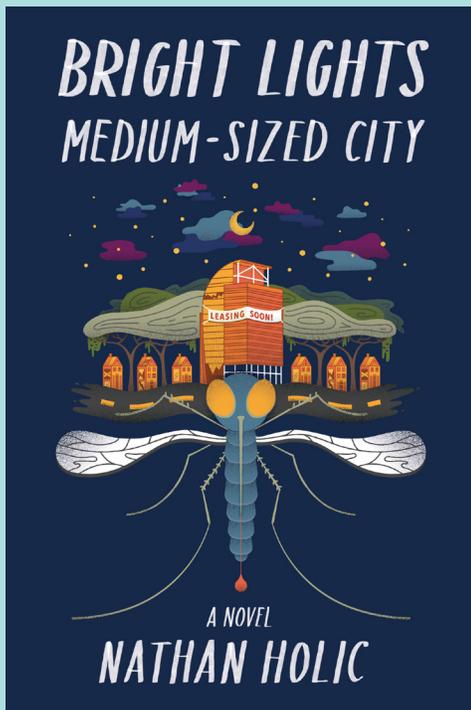
—JULIA MAXWELL bookseller at Literati Bookstore Ann Arbor, MI

“A remarkable new young American writer, whose talent is likely to become progressively more vital and profound in the years to come.”

—MIKHAIL IOSSEL author of *Notes from Cyberground*

MORE BP BOOKS BY SHANE HINTON:

We Can’t Help It If We’re From Florida (editor) // page 10
Pinkies: stories // page 9



Release Date: December 10, 2019

\$25 | Hardcover | Fiction

6.5" x 8.75" | 620 pages

ISBN: 978-1-941681-61-9

LCCN: 2019933522

100+ b/w illustrations

Links to press kit, excerpt,
and Edelweiss+ galley at:
burrowpress.com/bright



Nathan Holic is the author of the novels *The Things I Don't See* and *American Fraternity Man*. He is the editor of Burrow Press' "15 Views" series, and Graphic Narrative editor for *The Florida Review*.

Bright Lights, Medium-sized City

A NOVEL BY NATHAN HOLIC

Synopsis: Orlando, Florida. Summer of 2009. The Magic are steamrolling through the NBA playoffs, but your life is falling apart. For years you were told that Orlando was the city of the future. Every new high-rise condo and sparkling subdivision confirmed this. Now the boom years are over, and your fiancé is gone. Your house-flipping partner emptied the bank account, sold off the staging furniture, and skipped town. You're an abandoned man with an empty McMansion you can't afford, and a dozen properties you can't sell. What's your next move, big guy?

Bookended by a choose-your-own-adventure story and a final exam, *Bright Lights, Medium-sized City* is a formally inventive city novel in the tradition of *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. *Bright Lights* follows Marc Turner, a toxic male and hapless house-flipper caught in Orlando's collapsing housing market. Through text, comic panels, and watercolor illustrations, Nathan Holic's third novel shepherds readers from the glitz of downtown block parties to the grit of the Bithlo school bus races, with a spiraling detour in which the spirits of Orlando's past confront Marc and force him to realize the danger of his own ambitions.

PRAISE FOR *BRIGHT LIGHTS*...

"Every city should have its own novel, and finally Nathan Holic has crafted the volume that Orlando deserves. A story well told capturing the city in words."

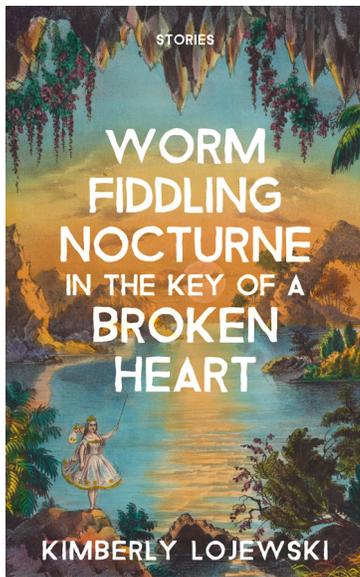
—**JAMES C. CLARK** author of *Orlando, Florida: A Brief History*

"A Florida magnum opus, masterpiece, a constellation, a novel in novellas, a graphic fictive memoir, a collection of parenting advice, and a catalog of real estate markets, all set to the song of neighborhoods and towns in and around The City Beautiful. The book is also, of course, a penetrating examination of humanity, love, and masculinity in a metropolis known by many for all the wrong reasons."

—**DAVID JAMES POISSANT** author of *The Heaven of Animals*

"Nathan Holic writes with the precision and confidence of a true badass. Hide your valuables and DIG IN."

—**LINDSAY HUNTER** author of *Eat Only When You're Hungry*



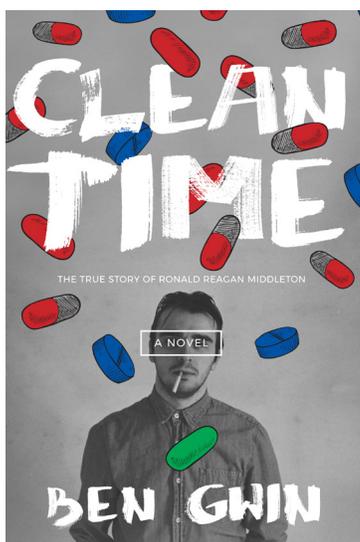
Worm Fiddling Nocturne in the Key of a Broken Heart
stories by Kimberly Lojewski

A RUMPUS BOOK CLUB SELECTION
WINNER OF THE FLORIDA BOOK AWARD IN FICTION

“In just a few pages, Lojewski creates deeply imaginative and textured worlds.” –KIRKUS REVIEWS

“Delightfully subversive... Often teetering on the boundary between dream and nightmare.” –FOREWORD REVIEWS

\$16 | Paper | 200p | ISBN: 978-1-941681-71-8

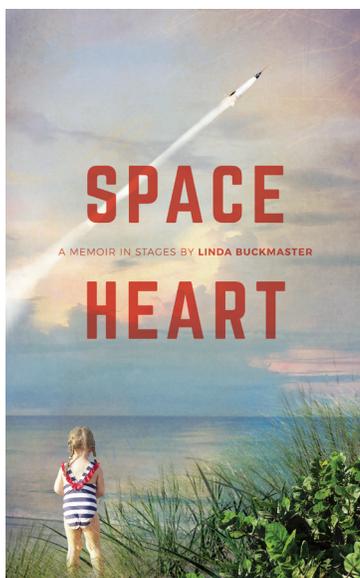


Clean Time: the True Story of Ronald Reagan Middleton
a novel by Ben Gwin

A vivid portrait of life in the druggy demimonde of petty scams, aimless loafing erupting in sudden violence, and epic pharmaceutical hangovers.”
–PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

“Ben Gwin writes like F. Scott Fitzgerald high on meth and *Clean Time* is *The Great Gatsby* for a generation that thinks fame is the answer to every question.”
–LORI JAKIELA, author of *Portrait of the Artist as a Bingo Worker*

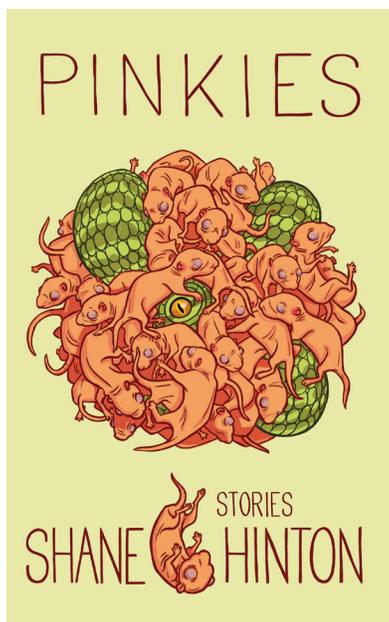
\$17 | Paper | 322p | ISBN: 978-1-941681-70-1



Space Heart
a memoir in stages by Linda Buckmaster

Through the eyes of a rocket engineer’s daughter, *Space Heart* paints a picture of an era of endless optimism and television cowboys amid the looming Soviet threat. Combining prose poems, narrative memoir, and history, Buckmaster juxtaposes the natural world of Space Coast Florida in the 1950s and 60s with the cutting-edge technology of the early days of the space race.

\$16 | Paper | 132p | ISBN: 978-1-941681-73-2



Pinkies

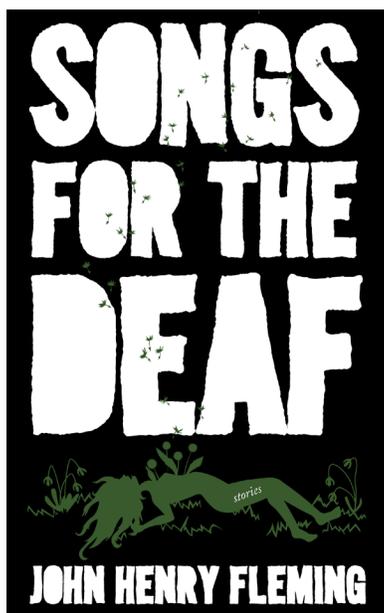
stories by Shane Hinton

ABSURDIST SHORT STORIES ABOUT FATHERHOOD

“If Kafka got it on with Flannery O’Connor, *Pinkies* would be their love child.”

–LIDIA YUKNAVITCH, author of *Book of Joan*

\$16 | Paper | 120p | ISBN: 978-1-941681-92-3



Songs for the Deaf

stories by John Henry Fleming

MODERN SPINS ON THE AMERICAN TALL TALE

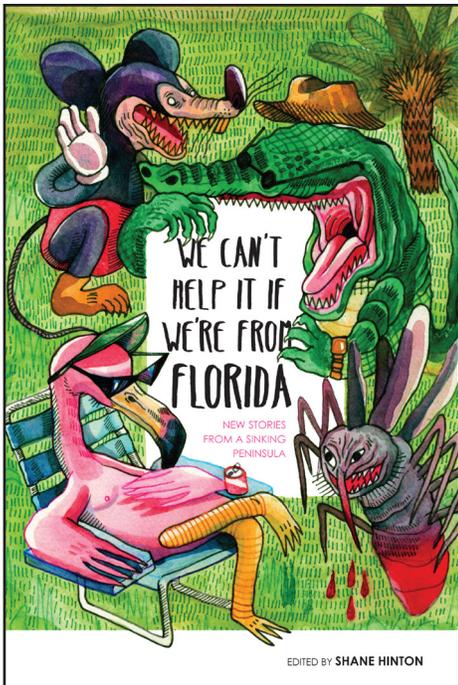
“A joyful, deranged, endlessly surprising book of stories. Fleming’s prose is glorious music; his rhythms will get into your bloodstream, and his images will sink into your dreams.”

–KAREN RUSSELL, author of *Swamplandia!*

“Fleming is a whimsical, imaginative, often funny writer, but even his most outlandish stories can sneak up on you with insight into the human condition.”

–TAMPA BAY TIMES

\$16 | Paper | 178p | ISBN: 978-0-9849538-5-1



We Can't Help It If We're from Florida

NEW STORIES FROM A SINKING PENINSULA

NOW IN PAPERBACK

\$17 | 200p | Fiction & Essays

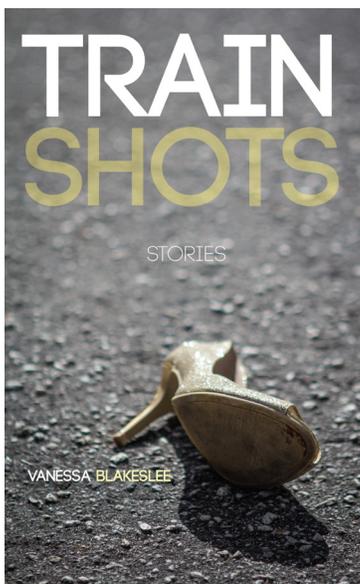
ISBN:978-1-941681-76-3

"We Can't Help It If We're From Florida is as hot and wild and dangerous as our beloved (or is it bedeviled?) state, itself. While no book could ever fully explain the mysteries of today's Sunshine State, this smart chorus of varied and brilliant voices comes as close as any I've read."

-LAUREN GROFF author of *Florida*

"A geographic mixtape that spans the Panhandle to Key West, here is that uniquely Floridian madness as seen from the eye of the hurricane. Thank God, here's something Florida can feel proud to have produced. New work that's as weird and funny and beautiful and unnerving as you might expect from some of our state's best writers. Whether you grew up on the Gulf or are still repressing a lost weekend in Daytona, you'll find plenty to enjoy here."

-KAREN RUSSELL author of *Swamplandia!*

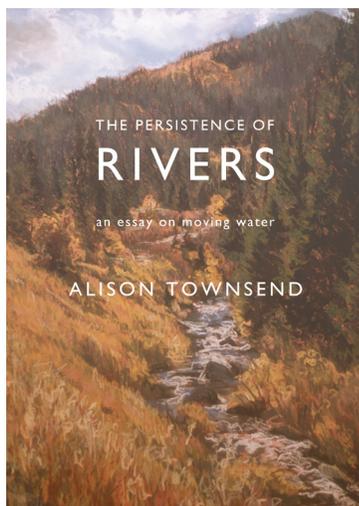


Train Shots

stories by Vanessa Blakeslee

\$17 | Paper | 140p

ISBN: 978-0-984953-84-4

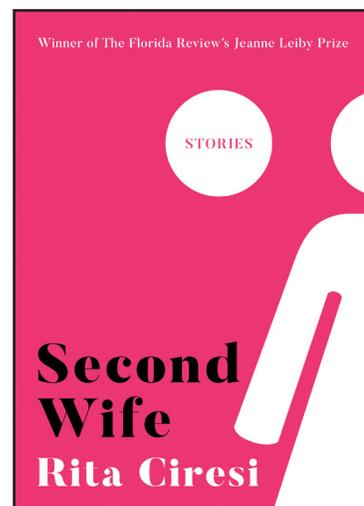


The Persistence of Rivers

an essay by Alison Townsend

\$16 | Paper | 80p

ISBN: 978-1-941681-83-1



Second Wife

stories by Rita Ciresi

\$16 | Paper | 60p

ISBN: 978-1-9416818-93-1