



# **SARABANDE BOOKS**

**POETRY · SHORT FICTION · ESSAY**



# Sarabande Books

Poetry | Short Fiction | Essay

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Welcome to our catalog and the celebration of our platinum anniversary! Twenty years ago, Sarabande Books was officially incorporated and opened its doors for business. Since then, we've read more than 70,000 submissions; published or signed 177 books; sponsored 100 readings and workshops annually; garnered more than thirty-six grants from organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts and Kentucky Arts Council; and gratefully accepted contributions from nearly 700 generous donors. Last March, the Association of Writers and Writing Programs chose Sarabande as the winner of its Small Press Publisher Award, a lovely way to kick off our third decade. But enough about us. We want to hear from you. Browse through these pages. Tell us what you think.

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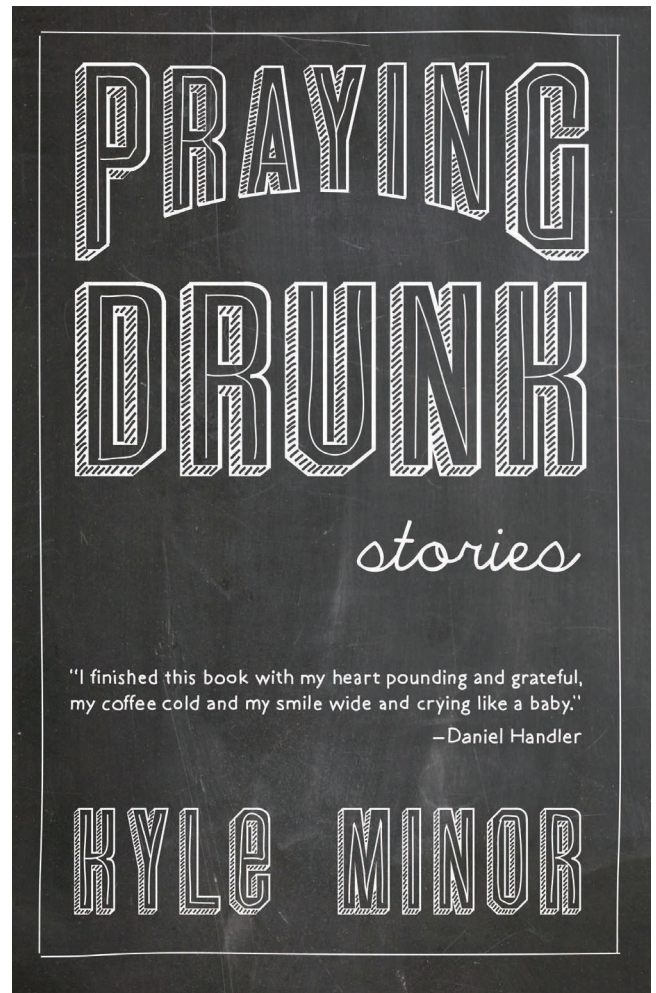
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February 2014  
**Praying Drunk**  
*Stories*

**Kyle Minor**

The characters in *Praying Drunk* speak in tongues, torture their classmates, fall in love, hunt for immortality, abandon their children, keep machetes beneath passenger seats, and collect porcelain figurines. A man crushes pills on the bathroom counter while his son watches from the hallway; missionaries clumsily navigate an uprising with barbed wire and broken glass; a boy disparages memorized scripture as he fails to fend off his bully. From Kentucky to Florida to Haiti, Kyle Minor shows us that the space between fearlessness and terror is often very small. Long before *Praying Drunk* reaches its plaintive, pitch-perfect end, Minor establishes himself again and again as one of the most talented younger writers in America.



“I finished this book with my heart pounding and grateful, my coffee cold and my smile wide and crying like a baby.”

—DANIEL HANDLER

Fiction, Paperback, 208 pages

5.5 x 8.5, \$15.95

ISBN 9781936747634

Ebook available

“Up there with the best works of Padgett Powell, Donald Barthelme, and Robert Coover. . . . 100% individually-wrapped masterpieces. I am haunted and mesmerized by this collection.”

—GEORGE SINGLETON

“These passionate tales, full of longing and daring and honesty, will disturb and inspire you.”

—DEB OLIN UNFERTH

*Kyle Minor* is a columnist at Salon and The Nation. His work has appeared in Esquire, Best American Mystery Stories, Best American Nonrequired Reading, and elsewhere. He is the author of *In the Devil's Territory* (Dzanc, 2008).

July 2014

# Elegy on Kinderklavier

Stories

Arna Bontemps Hemenway

Linda Bruckheimer Series in Kentucky Literature

*Elegy on Kinderklavier* explores the profound loss and intricate effects of war on lives that have been suddenly misaligned. A diplomat navigates a hostile political climate and an arranged marriage in an Israeli settlement on a newly discovered planet, and a small town in Kansas shuns the army recruiter who signed up its boys as troops are deployed to Iraq. In the lead story, the moment a soldier steps on an explosive device is miraculously and painfully reproduced, nanosecond by nanosecond. We feel each click and trigger of the metal below his feet, the compression of his toes, and the fading of the sky around him. *Elegy on Kinderklavier* is a disquieting exploration of what it is to lose and be lost.



“Arna Hemenway writes a fiction whose satisfactions are not merely narrative but musical, and it is a pleasure to listen to his stories as they rise into song.”

—KEVIN BROCKMEIER

“Arna Bontemps Hemenway’s *Elegy on Kinderklavier* is an exceptional collection. . . . One of the most singular and impressive debuts I’ve read.”

—ALAN HEATHCOCK

“*Elegy on Kinderklavier* is unrelenting in its intelligence, its sorrow, its insistence on building dream cities, its insistence on colonizing the heart.”

—REBECCA MAKKAI

Fiction, Paperback, 224 pages

5.5 x 8.5, \$15.95

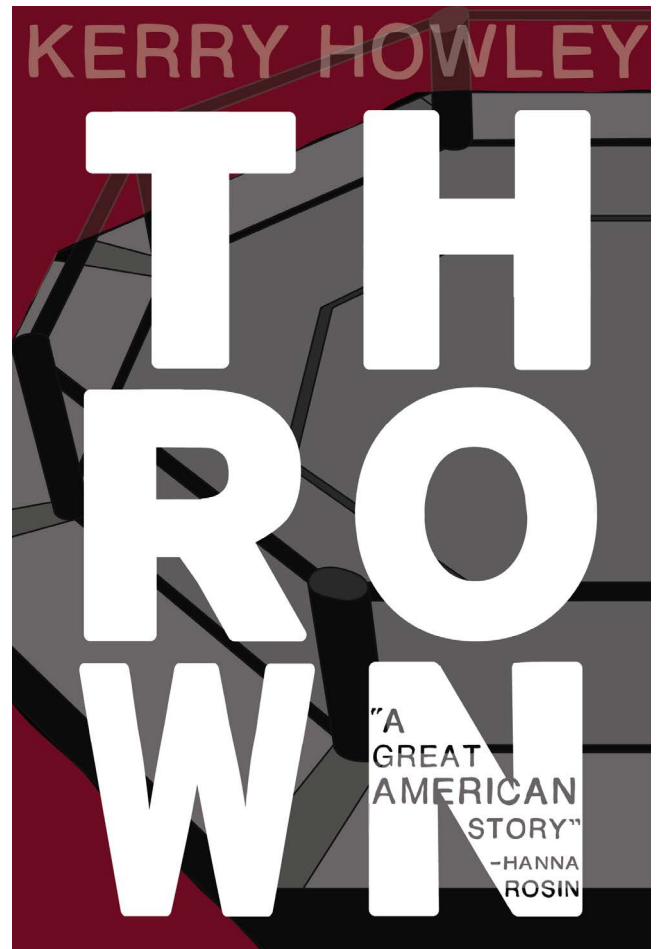
ISBN 9781936747764

Ebook available

*Arna Bontemps Hemenway’s work has appeared in Ecotone, FiveChapters, The Missouri Review, and has earned mention in Best American Short Stories and Best Non-Required Reading. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and teaches at Baylor University.*

October 2014  
**Thrown**  
*Literary Nonfiction*  
Kerry Howley

Acclaimed journalist and essayist Kerry Howley delivers a stunning debut as she infiltrates the world of mixed martial arts and the lives of two aspiring cage fighters: Erik “New Breed” Koch, a rising star, and Sean Huffman, ten years his senior, a fighter still living in a basement in Davenport, Iowa. For more than two years, Howley follows the men as they tear ligaments, lose a third of their body mass to make weight before fights, and forsake all stability in their quest to reach the octagon, the hallowed cage that can determine whether a fighter has a chance to break out of bloodied Midwestern obscurity. *Thrown* offers an extraordinary, unfettered look into a culture that must destroy in order to reach redemption.



“*Thrown* is Kerry Howley’s masterful debut. A work of rigorous nonfiction that’s sure to be branded experimental, but that’s as involving and page-turning as any book I’ve read in a while.”

—GARY SHTEYNGART

“Who can explain what draws a young brilliant writer—and a woman no less—to be mesmerized by the sight of a young man being pummeled in the ring? . . . A great American story about overlooked heroes, the nature of violence, hope, love and nearly everything else that matters.”

—HANNA ROSIN

“This is a gloriously heartbreaking debut.”

—JOHN D’AGATA

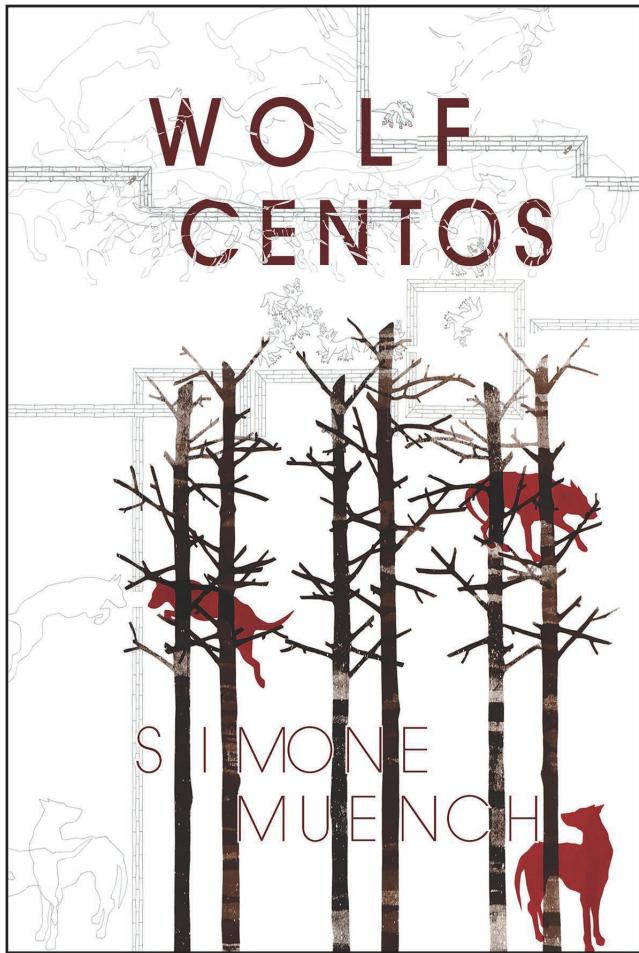
Nonfiction, Paperback, 272 pages

5.25 x 7.75, \$15.95

ISBN 9781936747924

Ebook available

*Kerry Howley’s work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Atlantic Monthly, The Wall Street Journal, Slate, The Paris Review, and frequently in Bookforum. She holds an MFA from the University of Iowa, where she was an Arts Fellow and the Provost’s Visiting Writer in Nonfiction.*



July 2014  
**Wolf Centos**

Poems

**Simone Muench**

Comprised of centos, a patchwork form that originated around 300 AD, *Wolf Centos* places poets in conversation with one another across centuries and continents. Simone Muench sutures her poems together with the motifs of the wolf, language, loss, desire, and transformation. *Wolf Centos* is elegiac as it oscillates between transformation and stasis, wildness and domesticity, death and beauty, damage and healing, because ultimately our lives constantly shift between these polarities as well. The ultimate knowledge of the poems is that as we age and experience loss, we must retain our “wildness”—the wolf’s wilderness—inside us.

“Simone Muench has stitched together a new creature out of scraps and vital organs she gathered in the boneyard. It lives. It leaps. It bounds. It’s at your window tonight. Too late for you, sweetheart.”

—DANIEL HANDLER

“Simone Muench’s poetry has always had about it a kind of personal urgency, the sense that image and lyric fully realized offer the self its best landscape. . . . Her wolf is complex and protean, a familiar, whose howl inhabits and enables the articulate explorations of these powerful poems.”

—MICHAEL ANANIA

Poetry, Paperback, 72 pages

5.25” x 7.75”, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747795

Ebook available

*Simone Muench* is the recipient of an NEA Poetry Fellowship and two Illinois Arts Council Fellowships. She is the author of four books, including *Lampblack & Ash*, which was an Editor’s Choice at The New York Times Book Review.

May 2014  
**Hustle**  
Poems

**David Tomas Martinez**

The speaker of David Tomas Martinez's poems steals cars, runs away with canyons, sits in understudy at the bar, fathers a child before seventeen, and works welding frigates, all with no reverence for literature with clean streets. With Dantean confidence, Martinez constructs San Diego as an inferno of El Caminos, silent sex, and murdered high school valedictorians. Martinez's youth as a Latino in the city is documented in *Hustle* as it moves from gang activity through his discovery of pornography to a failed suicide attempt on a crooked path toward self-understanding. This brave and honest collection works as an apt guide through the circles of a modern urban existence.



"You will see right away a tone that is restless, metaphors that thrill you, and music that is so contagious it just won't let you be. That is because David Tomas Martinez is a real poet."

—ILYA KAMINSKY

"Out of these trespassings and travels, Martinez makes original, wise and tender poetry. *Hustle* is full of dashing nerve, linguistic flair, and unfakeable heart."

—TONY HOAGLAND

"*Hustle* is a terrific, electric first book of poems."

—KEVIN PRUFER

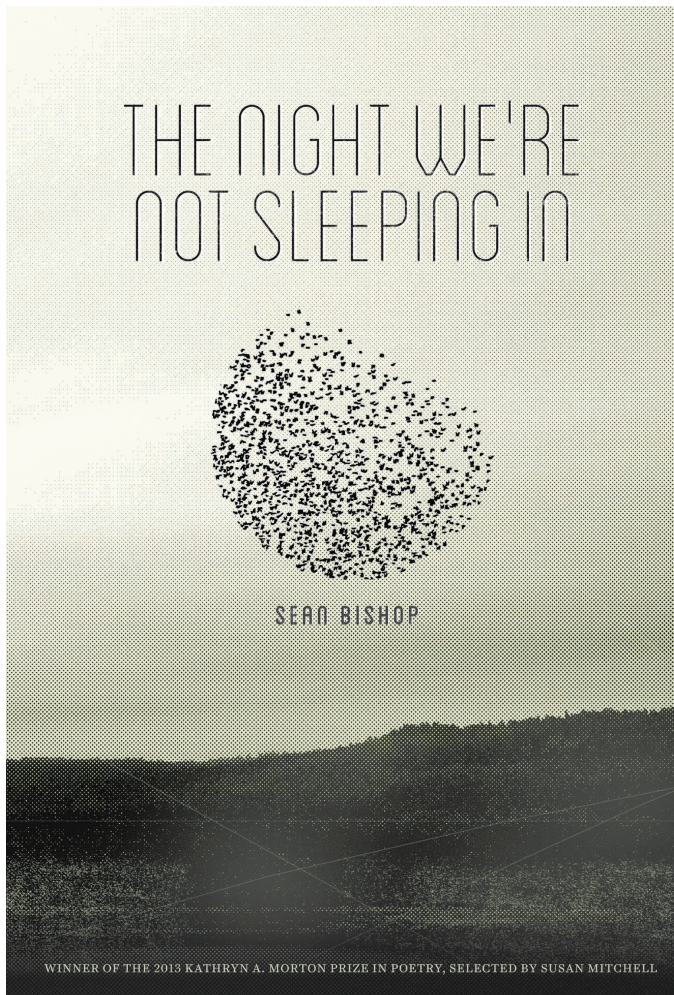
Poetry, Paperback, 104 pages

6 x 9, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747771

Ebook available

*David Tomas Martinez has been featured in NBC Latino, Poetry International, and Border Voices. A PhD candidate at the University of Houston, Martinez is also an editor for Gulf Coast.*



October 2014

# The Night We're Not Sleeping In

Poems

Sean Bishop

Winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poery

“Sean Bishop’s *The Night We’re Not Sleeping In* is a book equal to our dark and savage postmodern world. It rages, it defies, it rebels. . . . Reading a great book is risky because you will not be the same person when you have finished it. You will have lost your innocence. *The Night We’re Not Sleeping In* is a great book. It will disturb and provoke you into the experience of reading it again, and again. A dark music rages and grieves in your ears until you finally come to realize it is the almost unbearable song of yourself.”

—FROM THE FOREWORD BY SUSAN MITCHELL

“This book is an essential, thrilling ride, which has the feeling of being inevitable. We enter into this book alert to possibility, and leave knowing how asleep we’ve been.”

—NICK FLYNN

“*The Night We’re Not Sleeping In* is a collection of hauntings. From the companionship of black holes to the loss of a parent to the regenerative power of killing, old wounds are reconfigured, old griefs polished until they shine. Sean Bishop dredges up the light that lies hidden at the bottom of the void.”

—QUAN BARRY

Poetry, Paperback, 88 pages

6 x 9, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747931

Ebook available

*Sean Bishop’s* poems have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Best New Poets*, *Harvard Review*, *Indiana Review*, *jubilat*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. He has an MFA from the University of Houston and coordinates the programs in creative writing at the University of Wisconsin.

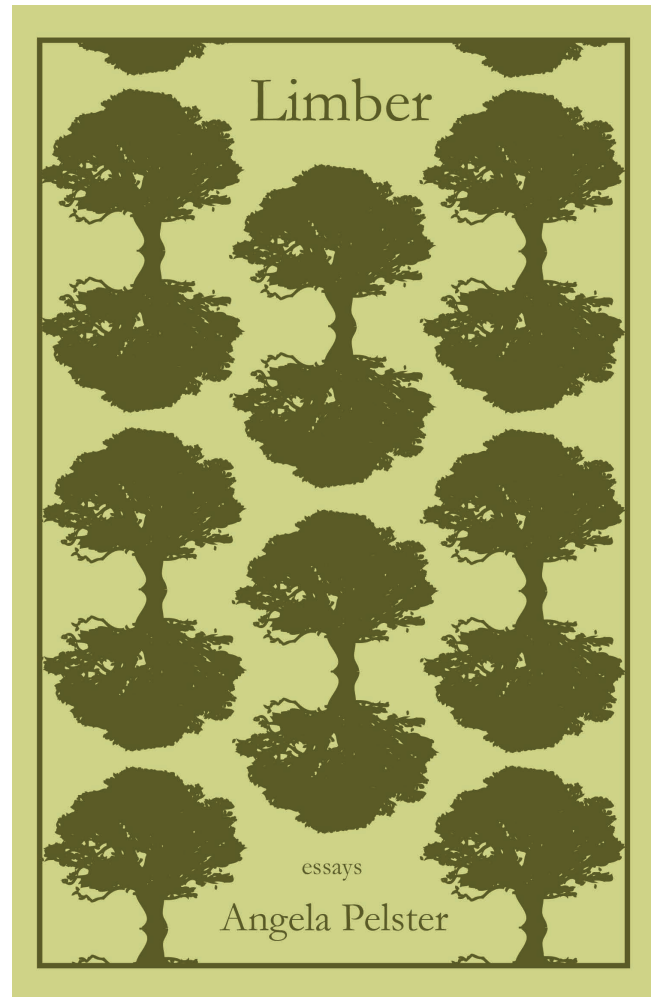


April 2014  
**Limber**

Essays

Angela Pelster

Angela Pelster's startling essay collection charts the world's history through its trees: roots in the ground, rings across wood, topiaried, wind-sculpted pines, the skinny poplars of her youth in Canada, and a desert in Niger, where "The Loneliest Tree in the World" once grew. In her backyard, a squirrel's decomposing body below a towering maple prompts a discussion of the science of rot, as well as a metaphor for the ways in which nature programs us to consume ourselves. Pelster is a writer who looks and listens closely, as she watches tree frogs and questions how long we can love one another. Beautiful, deeply thoughtful, and wholly original, *Limber* valiantly asks what it means to sustain life on this planet we've inherited.



"What a strange and unexpected treasure chest is this, filled with all manner of quirky revelations, all about the mundane sublime and the ineffable extraordinary. Most extraordinary of all, perhaps, though, is the haunting perfection, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, of the writing itself. Who is this Angela Pelster and where has she been all our lives? Please, may she come in and make herself at home!"

—LAWRENCE WESCHLER

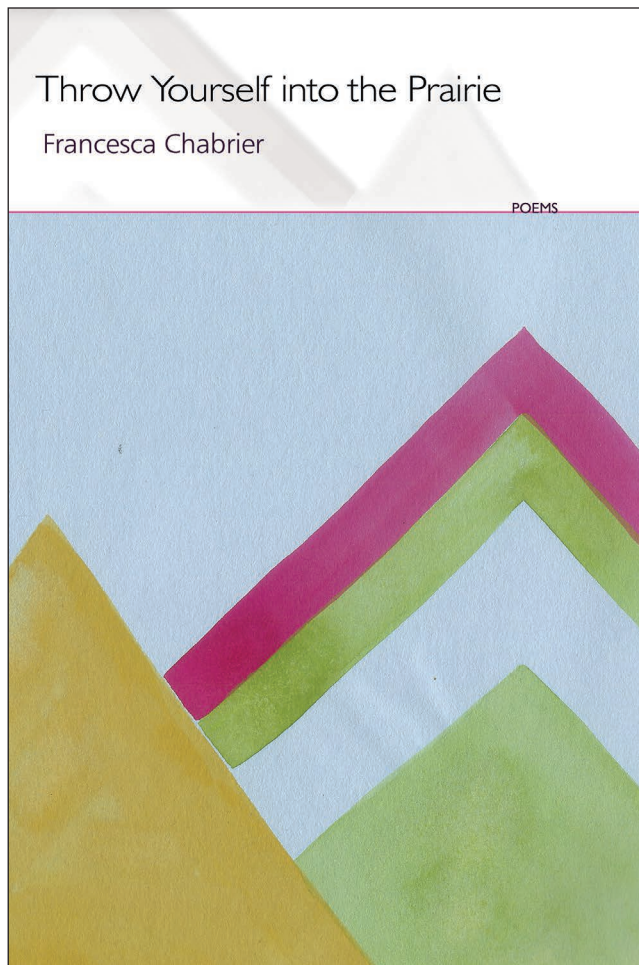
Nonfiction, Paperback, 160 pages

5.25 x 7.75, \$15.95

ISBN 9781936747757

Ebook available

*Angela Pelster's essays have appeared in Granta, The Gettysburg Review, Seneca Review, and The Globe and Mail. She has an MFA from the University of Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program and teaches at Towson University.*



January 2014

# Throw Yourself into the Prairie

*Poems*

Francesca Chabrier

Language itself may change us, and as proof we have Francesca Chabrier's loose, sensuous, gentle associations, the interplay of her comic and coy images. We have syntactic innovation that yields new meaning: "Peach some laid their hands on/ and they fell off." The charmed view may do more than entertain or divert—it may engender vision: "Thank you for the good/ and patient attitude./ It bloomed into an eye." *Throw Yourself into the Prairie* breathes freshness and delight. Chabrier's poems are, yes, charismatic—they entertain, startle, cast a spell, and bless.

"You won't want to stop reading this other-worldly good book."

—DARA WIER

"Francesca Chabrier's *Throw Yourself into the Prairie* is beautiful. This book, told in chapters, really does tell a story of a world that is surprising though mundane, gentle though sad, and at every turn filled with amazement."

—MATTHEW ROHRER

"With joy, resilience, and mindfulness, Francesca Chabrier makes poems that sing, laugh, cajole, and weep."

—PETER GIZZI

Poetry, Paperback, 96 pages

5.5 x 8.5, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747658

Ebook available

*Francesca Chabrier* is the author of the chapbook *The Axioms* (Pilot Books, 2013). Her poems have appeared in *Action Yes*, *jubilat*, *notnostrums*, *Sixth Finch*, and *Sink Review*. She has an MFA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

January 2014

# Thought That Nature

Poems

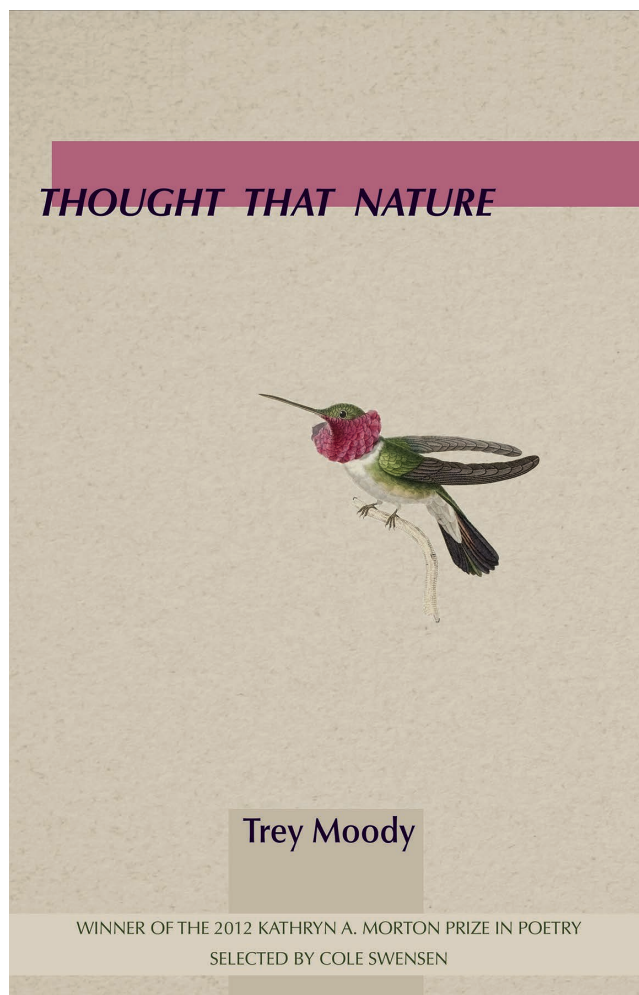
Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry

Trey Moody

Like rigorous philosophy, Trey Moody's poems begin with the immediate evidence, then move outward: "I am here," he says, "So far/this seems to have been true." His project is to identify and capture those moments when the border between personal consciousness and the otherness of the physical become porous: "Pin oak left/me with its leaves, each/a somewhat familiar word." This debut collection by a poet of obvious promise offers the reader a folding together of sensual delight and intellectual pursuit—a rare and bracing combination.

"All these issues [of weather] hum subtly at the bottom of Trey Moody's sweeping collection—sweeping also in the weatherian sense; it has a tremendous momentum that amounts to a tempestuous phenomenon of wind or wave or both. . . . Its dynamics, its rhythms, its scents, sights, and sounds are absolutely unique, and they assail each one of our senses, bringing them all together in a constant synesthetic event. . . . The fact that wind is invisible, that rain has no color, that light and snow are both clear white—here in these apparent transparencies, Moody finds the subtleties that actually shape our lives."

—COLE SWENSEN



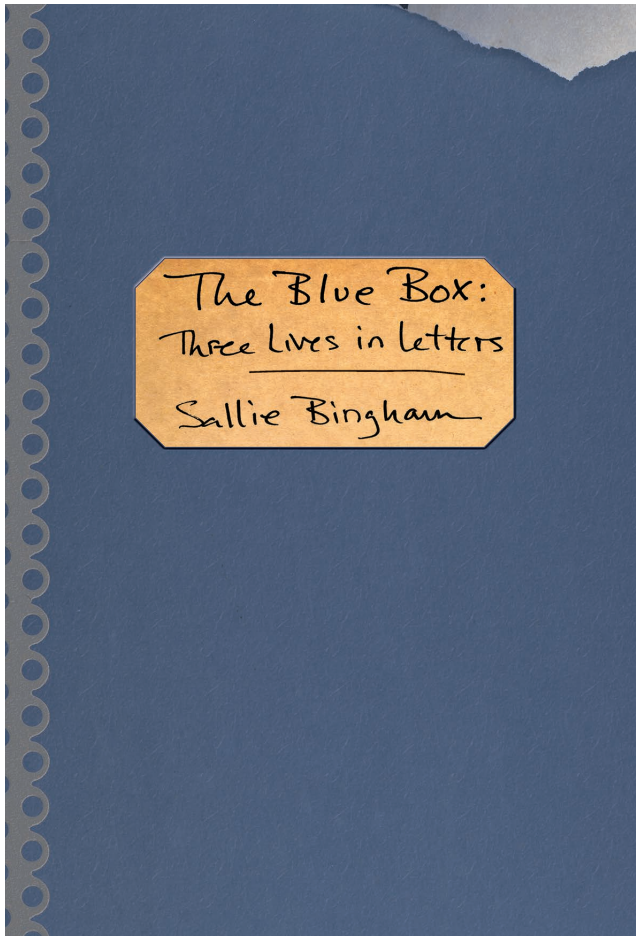
Poetry, Paperback, 88 pages

5.5 x 8.5, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747672

Ebook available

*Trey Moody's poems have appeared in Best New Poets, Colorado Review, Denver Quarterly, Indiana Review, and Washington Square. He has a PhD from the University of Nebraska and an MFA from Texas State University.*



August 2014

# The Blue Box: Three Lives in Letters

*Memoir*

**Sallie Bingham**

This family history centered around three generations of women spans more than a century, from the Civil War through the Jazz Age. Fans of Bingham's work will especially appreciate the romance of parents Mary and Barry that unfolds in letters and results in their marriage. Bingham beautifully demonstrates an inheritance of emotion, morality, ideology, and most lasting of all, irreverence.

## PRAISE FOR SALLIE BINGHAM

Nonfiction, Paperback, 248 pages

5.5 x 8, \$15.95

ISBN 9781936747788

Ebook available

"Selected from five decades' work, these stories distill the mysterious glow that lives emanate as they recede into the past, and confirm Bingham's place in the front rank of practitioners of this elusive genre."

—*THE NEW YORKER*

"[S]parkling short fiction. . . . Bingham's work, including favorites such as 'The Wedding' and 'Sweet Peas,' remains sharp and deliciously unsettling, ripe for discovery by a new generation of readers."

—STARRED REVIEW, *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*

*Sallie Bingham* is the author of eleven books and has been a director of the National Book Critics Circle. She is the founder of The Kentucky Foundation for Women and The Sallie Bingham Archive for Women's Papers and Culture at Duke University.

October 2013

## Red Holler

*Contemporary Appalachian Literature*

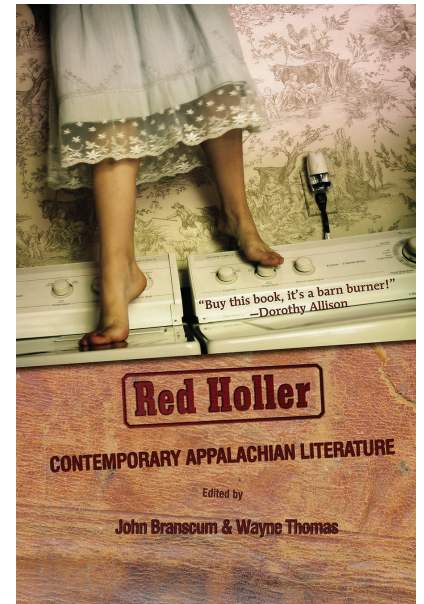
Linda Bruckheimer Series in Kentucky Literature

John Branscum and Wayne Thomas

“Humorous, poignant, caustic, and keenly aware of their ‘outsider’ status, the writers redefine what it means to be Appalachian.”

—Starred Review, *LIBRARY JOURNAL*

*Red Holler* takes us over and beyond the stock imagery of rural mountain communities. We travel into housing projects and forest-stripped ravines, exploring the vibrant hometown and migrant traditions of Appalachian cultures. Spanning ten years and the mountain range from Mississippi to New York, fresh new voices are placed alongside widely known and celebrated authors.



Anthology, Paperback, 248 pages

6 x 9, \$16.95

ISBN 9781936747665

Ebook available

November 2013

## Fire Year

*Stories*

Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction

Selected by Salvatore Scibona

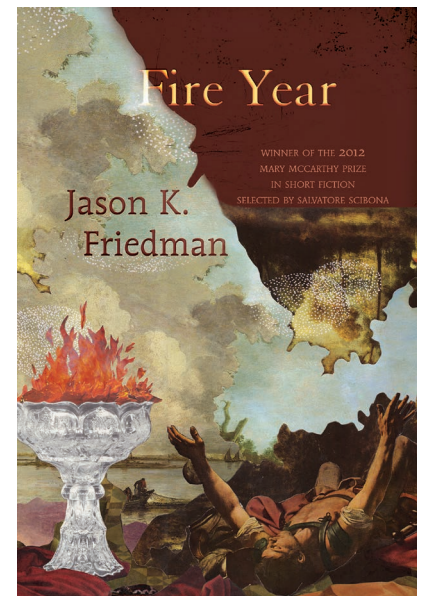
Jason K. Friedman

“Seven funny, fearless outsiders’ tales set in Savannah and Atlanta. . . .

Strengthened by the diversity in subject matter, the through-line of sexual coming-of-age and temptation gives this volume a satisfying coherence.”

—Starred Review, *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY*

Jason K. Friedman’s characters stumble through communities to which they belong—a synagogue, a hometown, a family—yet somehow remain outsiders. Intimate, sinuous prose creates a vivid and moving picture of the trials religious, cultural, and sexual minorities experience in Georgia and the Deep South.



Fiction, Paperback, 176 pages

5.25 x 7.75, \$15.95

ISBN 9781936747641

Ebook available



## Catherine's Laughter

C.K. Williams

QUARTERNOTE CHAPBOOK SERIES #11

Poetry, Paperback, 32 pages

6 x 9, \$9.95

ISBN 9781936747689

September 2013

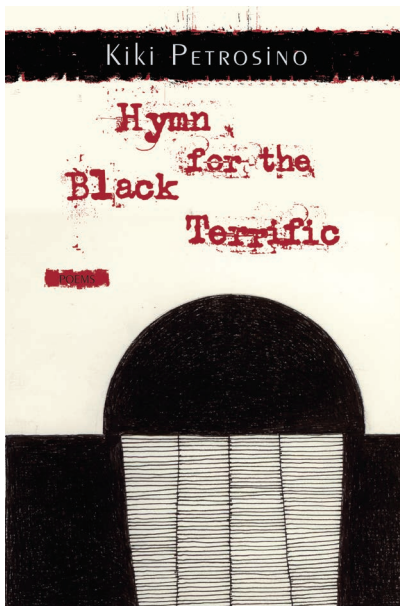
## Catherine's Laughter

Poems

Quarternote Chapbook Series #11

C.K. Williams

For grownups who've begun to wonder whether romance is just for the kids, C. K. Williams has answered with *Catherine's Laughter*, the short and sweet story of the poet's long love affair with his wife. Can a poet find sustaining love in marriage? Yes, the poet declares, yes—even grownups can fall in love, and keep falling.



KIKI PETROSINO

## Hymn for the Black Terrific

August 2013

## Hymn for the Black Terrific

Poems

Kiki Petrosino

Poetry, Paperback, 88 pages

6 x 9, \$14.95

ISBN 9781936747597

"*Hymn for the Black Terrific* is the kind of book that makes readers of poetry ignite with joy and those who do not read poetry suddenly find themselves in love with verse."

—MATTHEW DICKMAN

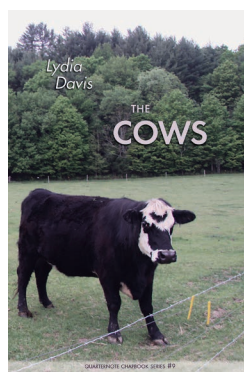
Petrosino offers us wildly inventive lyrics that take as launch pad allergenesis, the contents and significance of swamps, a revised notion of marriage, and ancestors—both actual and dreamed. The eponymous second section storms through Chinese delicacies, doubts, and confident proclamations from regions of an exploratory self. *Hymn for the Black Terrific* is a book of pure astonishment.

## Selected Backlist



### Let Me Clear My Throat Elena Passarello

Nonfiction, Paperback/HC, 240 pgs,  
\$15.95/\$22.95, ISBN 9781936747450/  
9781936747528



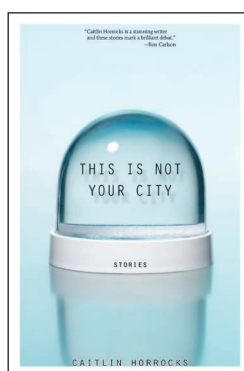
### The Cows Quarternote Chapbook Series #9 Lydia Davis

Nonfiction, Paperback, 32 pgs, \$9.95,  
ISBN 9781932511932



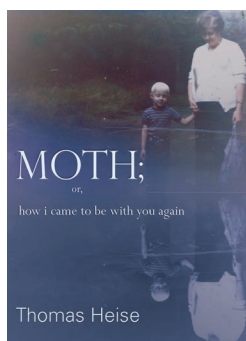
### Speculative Music Jeff Dolven

Poetry, Paperback, 72 pages, \$14.95,  
ISBN 9781936747580



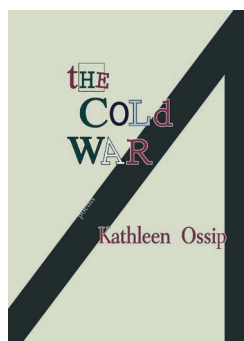
### This Is Not Your City Caitlin Horrocks

Fiction, Paperback, 224 pgs, \$15.95,  
ISBN 9781932511918



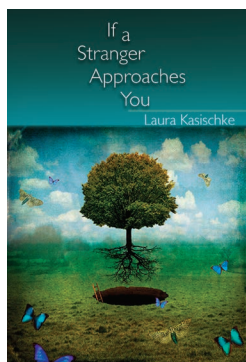
### Moth; or how i came to be with you again Thomas Heise

Fiction, Paperback, 176 pgs, \$15.95,  
ISBN 9781936747573



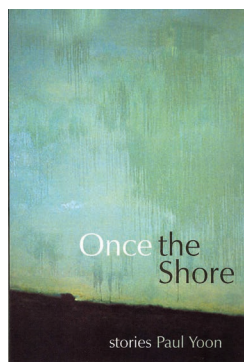
### The Cold War Kathleen Ossip

Poetry, Paperback, 72 pgs, \$14.95,  
ISBN 9781932511956



### If a Stranger Approaches You Laura Kasischke

Fiction, Paperback, 160 pgs, \$15.95,  
ISBN 9781936747498



### Once the Shore Paul Yoon

Fiction, Paperback, 224 pgs, \$15.95,  
ISBN 9781932511703

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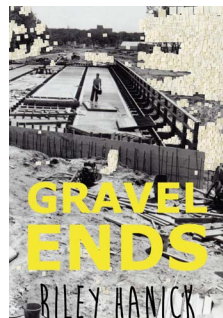


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