



**SARABANDE BOOKS**  
**2023**

# SARABANDE BOOKS

**Sarabande Books** is a nonprofit literary press founded in Louisville, Kentucky. Established in 1994 to champion poetry, fiction, and essay, we are committed to creating lasting editions that honor exceptional writing. With nearly 300 titles in print, we have earned a dedicated readership and a national reputation as a publisher of diverse forms and innovative voices. Through our free arts programming Sarabande Writing Labs and Flo Gault Student Poetry Prize, we are proud to invest in emerging writers and serve as an educational resource locally and nationally.

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## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



### THE MAN WITH EIGHT PAIRS OF LEGS

Leslie Campbell | Stories

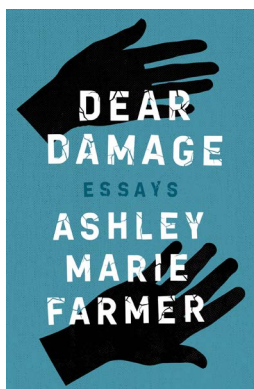
2022 WNBA GREAT GROUP READS SELECTION

“[A] remarkable collection—every story a deep dive well worth taking.”

*SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

“You’ll remember its vivid imagery and smart turns of phrase.”

*STANFORD MAGAZINE*



### DEAR DAMAGE

Ashley Marie Farmer | Essay

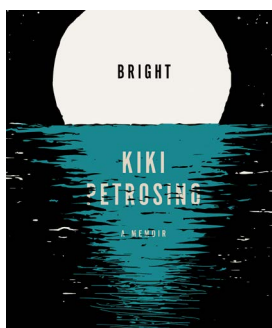
2022 INTERNATIONAL RUBERY BOOK AWARDS NONFICTION WINNER

“Remembering an act of violence born not out of malice, but love, Farmer’s narrative is melancholic, but still full of hope.”

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

“[T]he moments she depicts teem with power.”

*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, STARRED REVIEW*



### BRIGHT

Kiki Petrosino | Essays

“[Petrosino’s] work packs a hefty punch.”

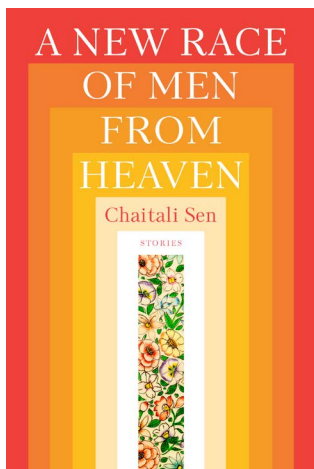
*PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, STARRED REVIEW*

“New and Noteworthy”

*POETS & WRITERS*

“A spare, affecting, lyrical memoir.”

*KIRKUS REVIEWS*



## A NEW RACE OF MEN FROM HEAVEN

Chaitali Sen | Stories | January  
Winner of the 2021 Mary McCarthy  
Prize selected by Danielle Evans

“The stories in *A New Race of Men from Heaven* move elegantly between the ache of loneliness and the grace of connection, however fleeting.”

—Danielle Evans, author of *The Office of Historical Corrections*

“These are wonderful stories—Chaitali Sen’s characters are such dear human beings: mysterious and lovable, irritable and alive. Each story is beautiful but together they are even better, about the anxieties and amnesias of our time, how strange and essential we are to each other. Above all they are truly surprising, in the way of life itself.”

—Elizabeth McCracken, author of *The Souvenir Museum*

*A New Race of Men from Heaven* is a collection of stories about characters who wander but are never truly lost. A lonely man on a business trip finds himself in the middle of a search party for a missing boy; a grieving widow leaves India to join family in the United States; a writer finds renewed success when an unknown imposter begins publishing under his identity. In these quiet yet deeply knowing stories of migration, power, and longing, *A New Race of Men from Heaven* offers us, above all else, stories of enduring love and hope.

Chaitali Sen’s short stories and essays have appeared in *Boulevard*, *Colorado Review*, *Ecotone*, *Electric Literature*, *New England Review*, *Shenandoah*, and many other publications. She is the author of the novel *The Pathless Sky* and holds an MFA from Hunter College. Born in India and raised in the US, she currently lives in Texas with her family.

ISBN 978-1-956046-02-1; paperback; 5.5 x 8.25 in; 190 pages; \$17.95

# I'M ALWAYS SO SERIOUS

Karisma Price | Poetry | February

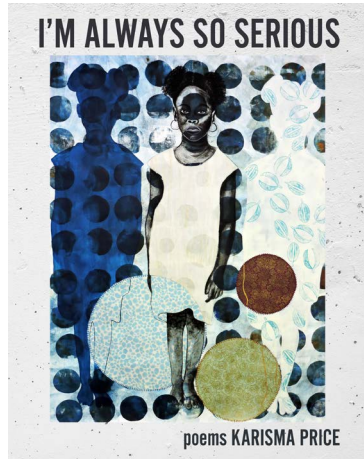
“Karisma Price speaks with a wink, a sigh, a knitted brow when she says she’s always so serious. She speaks as someone raised on a gumbo of James Baldwin and James Booker, Buckjumping and Brooklyn. She speaks as your phone’s autocorrect, your remixed song lyrics, your friendly neighborhood fortune teller. Price speaks directly to and for you while speaking distinctly for herself. These are the masterful portraits, mercurial testimonies, and verbal inventions of our imminent poet of the new school/south, the next generation. *I’m Always so Serious* is brilliant.”

—Terrance Hayes, winner of the National Book Award for *Lighthouse*

“In *I’m Always so Serious*, Karisma Price takes an unflinching look at personal, familial, racial, historical, and national violences in order to celebrate her survival of them. But Price is honest about the cost of that survival: ‘I refuse to make either of us cry in this poem so//I’ll just tell you that the willow weeps.’ These poems are intimate in ways that enlist our inclusion as readers in every line and scene. And yet, they are bold enough to mark and make clear a city as romantic and mythologized as New Orleans. This is a brilliant debut by a poet we should continue to watch.”

—Jericho Brown, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *The Tradition*

Karisma Price’s work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Four Way Review*, *Wildness*, *The Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem and New York University, was a finalist for the 2019 Manchester Poetry Prize, and awarded The 2020 J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize from The Poetry Foundation. She is from New Orleans, Louisiana, and holds an MFA in poetry from New York University. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Poetry at Tulane University.



ISBN 978-1-956046-04-5; paperback; 6.5 x 9 in; 112 pages; \$16.95



## NIGHTS FROM THIS GALAXY

Wil Weitzel | Stories | March

“These tales by Wil Weitzel have the still, piney quietude you find in a forest when a gust of air brings a scent rustling through. Then just like that they’re over, and something special lingers. What magic, what beauty there is in these pages.”

—John Freeman, author of *Wind, Trees*

“This taut gathering of gorgeously written stories, dense with apex predators—sharks, snakes, lions, lynxes, wolves,

and, most of all, people—makes a stately but impassioned case for the illimitable value of the natural world and our life-giving relationship to it. . . . Weitzel is part stylist and part shaman.”

—Matthew Thomas, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *We Are Not Ourselves*

In this adventurous debut collection lurk stories that are deep, lush, and full of wonder. While camping in the Kalahari Desert, a couple grows attached to a starving lion on the cusp of death; meanwhile, just north of the Smokies, a young boy is held captive by a dangerous old man who hunts dogs for sport; and off the Hawaiian coast, lovers kayak into the ocean to observe a tiger shark. The characters of these stories are complex, the prose buoyant, rhythmic, and fiercely knowing. *Nights from This Galaxy* captures the spirit of a wild and wonderful planet and all of its inhabitants, while nodding to the slow grief that binds us all.

Wil Weitzel received a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and an MFA in Fiction Writing from New York University Writers Workshop in Paris. His stories have appeared or are forthcoming in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Crazyhorse*, *EPOCH*, *Kenyon Review*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among others. He received a New York City Emerging Writers Fellowship at the Center for Fiction and won the Washington Square Review Flash Fiction Award.

ISBN 978-1-956046-06-9; paperback; 5.5 x 8.25 in; 178 pages; \$17.95

# MARE'S NEST

Holly Mitchell | Poetry | May  
Sarabande Series in Kentucky Literature  
2021 selection



“The camera can make a fool of a realist; says the speaker in the opening poem of Holly Mitchell’s debut collection *Mare’s Nest*. This claim—equal parts provocation and invitation—prepares the reader for the vivid portraits that follow: part family lore, part coming-of-age, part naturalist study. In these spare poems, vulnerability and a radical openness to the other—both human and animal—sing without sentimentality.”

—Catherine Barnett, author of *Human Hours*

“Full of both ache and praise, *Mare’s Nest* is a calling, a conjuring, a blessed airborne gallop embodying all the love and complications of home. This collection stuns, stunts, envelops, rises, and arrives trailing with shelled green beans, the gulping of creek water and the pregnant sigh and heat of longing, searching, finding exactly who we are and where we belong.”

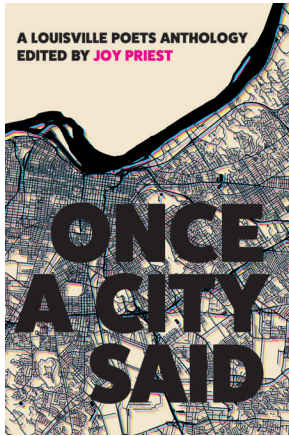
—Ellen Hagan, author of *Blooming Fiascoes*

“I can’t remember the last time such compelling poetry was made out of a subject so intensely specific—Nick Flynn’s *Blind Huber* comes to mind, or Thomas Lynch’s *Skating with Heather Grace*. . . . You’ll be dropped into the intimate dailiness of a Kentucky farm and a family, with Mitchell’s beautiful and bittersweet specificity as stark and gripping as Elizabeth Bishop’s. And there’s a lexicon at the end! This is a book whose subject is often the past but whose place is firmly with us in the present.”

—Matthew Rohrer, author of *The Sky Contains the Plans*

Holly Mitchell is a poet from Kentucky, now based in New York. A winner of an Amy Award from *Poets & Writers*, Mitchell received an MFA in Creative Writing from New York University. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Streaming*, *Afternoon Visitor*, and the *Lambda Literary Poetry Spotlight*, among other journals.

ISBN 978-1-956046-12-0; paperback; 6 x 9 in; 84 pages; \$16.95



## ONCE A CITY SAID

Ed. Joy Priest | Poetry Anthology | June  
Supported by the 2021 Fund for the Arts “Arts Match” campaign with matching funds provided by LG&E and KU Foundation

“Louisville represent! I’m excited to see that Joy Priest has compiled a textured range of contemporary River City voices that capture the traditions, protests, memories, and spirit that is uniquely Louisville. This anthology is an engaging read that spans voices, styles, and experiences. A wonderful accomplishment that says once and for all that Louisville has its own dazzling slice of Kentucky’s literary legacy.”

—Crystal Wilkinson, Kentucky’s Poet Laureate and author of *Perfect Black*

A project conceived in the wake of Louisville’s 2020 protests, *Once a City Said* showcases the polyvocal literary communities borne from and within a city historically burdened by social injustice. What emerges is an intimate report of the socioeconomic circumstances of a city misshapen by segregation, a growing tourism industry, and subsequent ruptures in the public trust, and a collection that takes the community’s narrative out of the mouths of politicians, news anchors and police chiefs, and puts it into the mouths of poets. Featuring thirty-seven acclaimed and emerging poets—including Mitchell H. Douglas, Erin Keane, Ryan Ridge, and Hannah L. Drake—*Once a City Said* archives the traditions and icons, landmarks and spirits, portraits and memories most personal to the Derby City.

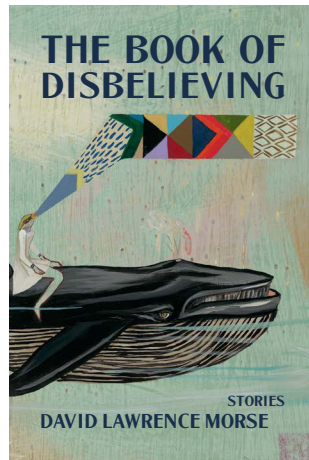
Joy Priest was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky across the street from the world’s most famous horse racing track. She is the author of *Horsepower* (Pitt Poetry Series, 2020), winner of the Donald Hall Prize for Poetry, and is a National Endowment for the Arts fellow. Her poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day series, and *The Atlantic*, among others, as well as in commissions for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Priest received her MFA in poetry with a certificate in Women & Gender Studies from the University of South Carolina.

ISBN 978-1-956046-08-3; paperback; 6 x 9 in; 184 pages; \$19.95



# THE BOOK OF DISBELIEVING

David Lawrence Morse | Stories | July  
Winner of the 2022 Mary McCarthy Prize  
selected by Susan Minot



“*The Book of Disbelieving* is filled with beautiful, beguiling wonders . . . but the most affecting magic here is profoundly human: the unknowability of others (and of ourselves); the mysteries of love and loss. Morse conjures the fantastic with such gorgeous, vivid precision we yearn for it to be real, much as his characters yearn to believe in each other.”

—Peter Ho Davies, author of the Man Booker Prize-longlisted book  
*The Welsh Girl*

“The stories in David Lawrence Morse’s *The Book of Disbelieving* are located somewhere between what used to be called ‘the real world’ and the world of fables, mirror-realities, and dreams. . . . Reader, be prepared for a mind-bending journey to places you have never been before.”

—Charles Baxter, author of *The Sun Collective*

Set amid wholly unique and fabulist worlds, the stories of *The Book of Disbelieving* present a cast of characters tangled in challenges of faith, whether in god, in nature, in memory, or even in reality. These are stories of villages built atop fish, of holidays designed to encourage literal leaps of faith, of widows left to make sense of memories both real and imagined. Steeped in the existential crises of our era, *The Book of Disbelieving* is a modern book of fables and lore. Behold this book with wonder.

David Lawrence Morse earned an MFA in fiction at the University of Michigan. He is now the director of the writing program at the Jackson School of Global Affairs at Yale. His work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *One Story*, *Missouri Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and elsewhere. His first play, *Quartet*, was performed by the Takács Quartet and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

ISBN 978-1-956046-19-9; paperback; 5.25 x 7.75 in; 178 pages; \$17.95



## MASTER

Simon Shieh | Poetry | September  
Winner of the 2022 Kathryn A.  
Morton Prize selected by  
Terrance Hayes

“In these poems, mercy grapples with forgiveness; kindness grapples with wickedness. They probe paradoxical feelings of presence and elusiveness: ‘we never remember the men / who we cannot forget.’

Elsewhere we read, ‘Each of us is a scorched page: part narrative, part dream.’ *Master* grapples with dream and memory: the song of hands in motion and the story of hands in action. This lyric and spare work is like the poet’s image of a Rottweiler holding butterflies in its mouth before letting them free. The poems can feel solitary and deliberate as ‘a sparring partner dancing to his own music.’ They can feel sensual and are poetic as ‘the water dripping off his body like missed syllables.’ Yes, I could introduce this book using nothing but dazzling excerpts. They reckon with the inexpressible. Beauty is set free from a mouth with fangs. I’m proud to select *Master* for the Kathryn A. Morton Prize.”

—Terrance Hayes, winner of the National Book Award for *Lighthouse*

Simon Shieh is a Taiwanese American poet and essayist. He has lived in upstate New York and Beijing, China, where he co-founded *Spittoon Literary Magazine*, which translates the best new Chinese writing into English. From 2008-2014 he competed as an amateur and professional Muay Thai fighter in China, Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, and the U.S. In 2021 he was named a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellow by the Poetry Foundation and in that same year moved to the U.S. with his wife, Charlotte, and their dog, Momo.

*author photo credit by Jojo Shieh*

ISBN 978-1-956046-21-2; paperback; 5.5 x 8.5 in; 72 pages; \$16.95

# LAST CALL 2

Ed. Kaveh Akbar and Paige Lewis |  
Poetry Anthology | October

Death to the old cliché of the self-destructive poet drinking about writing, destroying themselves and others in pursuit of their tortured genius. It is true, many writers have managed to produce great work while grappling their addictions, but one wonders what Hemingway, Berryman, Bishop might've been able to generate with full cognitive loadouts at their command. Here, we intend to celebrate the work of writers who have grappled, are grappling with this disease, who do not mythologize or glamorize addiction but instead live beside it, around it, through it. An alcoholic drinks to forget, a writer writes to remember, and alcoholic writers find themselves at the nexus of a fascinating, devastating friction.



Kaveh Akbar's poems appear in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Pilgrim Bell* (Graywolf, 2021) and *Calling a Wolf a Wolf* (Alice James, 2017), in addition to a chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic* (Sibling Rivalry, 2016). He is also the editor of *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse: 100 Poets on the Divine* (Penguin Classics, 2022). In 2024, Knopf will publish *Martyr!*, Akbar's first novel.

Paige Lewis is the author of *Space Struck* (Sarabande Books, 2019). Their poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere. They teach writing at the University of Iowa.

*top author photo credit by Hieu Minh Nguyen*  
*bottom author photo by Paige Lewis*

ISBN 978-1-956046-16-8; paperback; 6 x 9 in; 150 pages; \$19.95

# 2024 PREVIEW

## RICKY & OTHER LOVE STORIES

Whitney Collins | Stories | January

## NEW STORIES

Moira McCavana | Stories | February

## READER, I

Corey Van Landingham | Poetry | April

## HOW TO DISAPPEAR AND WHY

Kyle Minor | Essays | June

## NEW AND SELECTED STORIES

Brian Leung | Stories | August

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## **2023**

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**KYLE MINOR**

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