



Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction

A BISON ORIGINAL

Bliss and Other Short Stories

Ted Gilley

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136 pages

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Book Synopsis:

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, this daring collection of nine stories introduces readers to an edgy vision and a world in which certainties are tested and found wanting. The characters in *Bliss and Other Short Stories* must find their way to a truth that, though less than perfect, is one they can live with. Finding bliss, it seems, is as much about pain as about pleasure, and in Ted Gilley's writing the discovery is always exquisite.

“It is easy to see how this debut collection was selected as the winner of this year’s Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. These stories remind us of the attributes that give short fiction its special appeal. . . . The music of the prose draws us forward, revealing an elegant layering that is lovely to see. . . . A remarkable debut for all readers of fiction.”—*Library Journal*

Included in this Press Kit:

- [Book Description](#)
- [Praise for the Book](#)
- [Author Biography](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

PRAIRIE SCHOONER BOOK PRIZE
IN FICTION SERIES

Book Description

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction, this daring collection of nine stories introduces readers to an edgy vision and a world in which certainties are tested and found wanting. A Cambodian refugee negotiates the icy waters of American social and sexual life. A young couple seeks “peak experiences” to escape grief, only to discover that they’ve brought it along with them. A teenage girl, unable to face the imminent end of her grandfather’s life, risks her own life in an impulsive act. A man’s fragile hold on reality becomes the key to his finding, albeit through a terrifying labyrinth, his heart’s desire. The characters in *Bliss and Other Short Stories* must find their way to a truth that, though less than perfect, is one they can live with. Finding bliss, it seems, is as much about pain as about pleasure, and in Ted Gilley’s writing the discovery is always exquisite.

Pre-Publication Praise

“Ted Gilley’s stories serve up to us the natural world in all its ravishing and pastoral wonder, a world that’s always pulling at the sleeve of protagonists keenly attuned to its comforts and solace. They need that solace, for they feel peripheral to the agendas of those they care about most, so that for all their capacity to love, too often for them togetherness is still a knot always untied. These are wise and accomplished stories.”—Jim Shepard, author of *Like You’d Understand, Anyway*

“Gilley’s radiant stories are intensely imagined; they offer wide-angle inclusiveness of setting and a full range of finely crafted viewpoints. Deceptively plain diction melds with unexpected, rich turns of phrase: figures that delight and strengthen—like hidden girders in a soaring structure—this deft and memorable collection.”—Stephen Sandy, author of *Weathers Permitting*

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s [Web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Bliss-and-Other-Short-Stories,674649.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Bliss-and-Other-Short-Stories,674649.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography



Ted Gilley is a freelance writer and editor. His short fiction and poetry have appeared in such publications as *New England Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and many other magazines and anthologies.

Photo by Ivy Long

Additional Information

Events

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