



# HUB CITY PRESS 2025



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Dear reader,

Here are a few exciting things that have happened since my last letter: We launched the Hub City Press BIPOC Poetry Series prize and announced winners Cloud Delfina Cardona and Lolita Stewart-White, selected by inaugural editor-at-large Ashley M. Jones. Our authors have been featured in *the New York Times*, *On Being*, *Orion*, *The Bitter Southerner*, *The Southern Review of Books*, *Daily Yonder*, *the Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Poets & Writers*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Lit Hub*, *Electric Lit*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Poetry Daily*, and more. *The Say So* received a Foreword INDIES Honorable Mention. *Good Women* was a finalist for Foreword as well as the Weatherford Award. *El Rey of Gold Teeth* was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters Award. Our authors have toured to sixteen states, and a handful of our poetry books were on showcase display at Poets House. More locally, Hub City Press moved to a larger space in downtown Spartanburg, a necessary move for our staff, growing list of 140+ titles, and efforts to host workshops to serve our literary community.

I'm thrilled to introduce the 2025 book lineup:

First we have *Plum* by Andy Anderegg to launch our spring season, a dark but compelling novel written entirely in second person about growing up in the internet age and the cycles of abuse. In May, we'll publish *World Without End* by Martha Park, an illustrated collection of essays about the intersections of faith, motherhood, and the climate crisis. In June, we will publish two prize winners: Robert Busby for *Bodock: Stories*, selected as the winner of the C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize by Maurice Carlos Ruffin and *Junah at the End of the World* by Dan Leach, winner of the South Carolina Novel Series, in partnership with the South Carolina Arts Commission.

In the fall, we will publish debut author and musician Austyn Wohlers's novel *Hothouse Bloom*, a millennial pastoral that has been compared to Clarice Lispector and Elena Ferante. Next we will publish Alabama Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones's fourth poetry collection, *Lullaby for the Grieving*, and *the past is a jean jacket* by Cloud Delfina Cardona, chosen by Ashley M. Jones as one of the winners of the Hub City Press BIPOC Poetry Series. We will close out the year with a Hub City fiction anthology (title TK) to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

It's been a big year for us, and there's more to come as we enter into this third decade! We are forever grateful to you, our community of authors, booksellers, librarians, reviewers, and of course, readers, who have championed our books along the way and have allowed us to grow. We can't wait for you to dive into this new season.

Meg Reid, Publisher

***“You wish to never see a plum again in your life... You think: When I am an adult, I will never have a fruit tree. I will never be like this.”***

## **Praise for *Plum***

*“Andy Anderegg must have had her whole heart in her hands when she wrote this beautiful, devastating book about loss and abuse and siblinghood and survival. The language and style are so fully her own, a new exhilarating voice, you won’t be able to stop reading. I couldn’t. I inhaled it.”*

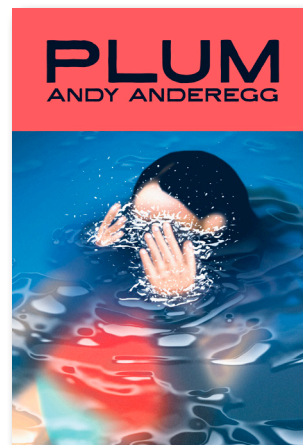
**—Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Barn 8***

*“Plum is a truly original, tender, and heart-searing novel about the secrets we keep, all the ways a soul can be broken, and the lies we have to tell ourselves to move on. Andy Anderegg so beautifully captures the wrenching pain and wild joys of growing up and learning how to survive, and how to make a real, big life for yourself. I will never stop thinking about this book, it’s forever imprinted on my heart.”*

**—Crissy Van Meter, author of *Creatures***

# Plum

Andy Anderegg



For fans of Sarah Rose Etter and Scott McClanahan, *Plum* is a darkly beautiful, unflinching novel about modern girlhood in the internet age, the daily toll of trauma, and the limits of love.

Told entirely in the second person, *Plum* follows J as she grows from kid to teen in a house ruled by her alcoholic dad and complicit mother. Her older brother is sometimes wonderful, sometimes gross, and he's her only hope of getting out. J's world is one of nail polish, above-ground pools, and drive-thrus—and of violence, carelessness, and so many rules. J covets the peace that comes when she slips on her headphones, turns on her handheld radio, and dreams of how she and her brother can make their escape.

In her brutally compelling debut, Anderegg turns her singular gaze on the generational patterns of addiction and abuse.

APRIL 8, 2025  
HARDCOVER, \$26.00  
979-8-88574-046-3  
FICTION/NOVEL  
5.5 x 8.5, 232 pages

Andy Anderegg was born in Austin, Texas and lives in Los Angeles, California. She holds a BA from the University of Oklahoma and an MFA from the University of Kansas. Her fiction has been shortlisted for the Dzanc Books' Prize for Fiction and named a finalist for The Clay Reynolds Novella Prize from Texas Review Press.

## RELATED TITLES



## Praise for *World Without End*

“In these penetrating and beautifully wrought essays, Martha Park employs her many identities—artist, naturalist, southerner, mother, preacher’s daughter astray—to investigate profound questions about faith and the fate of our planet. It is rare to find a voice like this: at once vulnerable and rigorous, skeptical and compassionate, commanding and humble in the presence of mystery. It is rarer still when that voice—its questions and ideas—are so vividly embodied, so intimately involved with the sensory world. I have been raving about this book since I finished reading its exquisite and devastating final lines. As the title suggests, I suspect *World Without End* will endure long past the season of its birth, moving and engaging readers for years to come.” —Lisa Wells, author of *Believers: Making a Life at the End of the World*

“It’s hard to imagine a more trustworthy guide through the terrain of faith and doubt in this era of ecological catastrophe than Martha Park. In her hands, the stories we tell ourselves about the world—and how it may or may not end—are forces of nature in and of themselves, animated by electricity, gravity, and wonder. Like the theologian Martin Buber, Park sees the ‘paradoxical unity of what one might typically see as opposites’: not only on the grand scale of embodiment and limitlessness, time and eternity; but also in the messy details that emerge when family or community members are polarized by political or religious beliefs. Park’s illustrations, like her writing, are clear-eyed, carefully observed, fully of this world, yet mysteriously transcendent. This is a book to treasure.” —Arwen Donahue, author of *Landings: A Crooked Creek Farm Year*

“In elegant and exacting prose, Martha Park draws readers into the white southern Christianity of preppers and young earth creationists—but also of her progressive, renegade pastor-father. Compassionate but unflinching, Park shows us what faith can do when practiced with empathy instead of fear. An important new voice, and *World Without End* is a much needed reckoning.” —Cameron Dezen Hammon, author of *This Is My Body: A Memoir of Religious and Romantic Obsession*

# World Without End:

## Essays on Apocalypse and After

Martha Park



For fans of Margaret Renkl and Lisa Wells's *Believers*, *World Without End* circles the connections between climate change and faith in the fear and fascination of the end of the world.

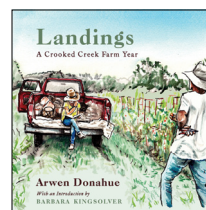
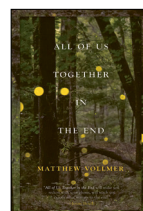
In illustrated essays, *World Without End: Essays on Apocalypse and After* explores the intersections of faith, motherhood, and the climate crisis across the South, from man-made wetlands in Arkansas to conservation cemeteries in South Carolina; from a full-scale replica of Noah's Ark in Kentucky to the reenactment of the Scopes Monkey Trial. Park chronicles the ways the faith she was raised in now seems like an exception to the rule, and explores this divide with compassion and empathy.

*World Without End* considers the way religion shapes how Southerners understand and interact with the world—and how faith can compel us to work to save the places we love.

**MAY 6, 2025**  
**HARDCOVER, \$24**  
**979-8-88574-048-7**  
**NONFICTION/MEMOIR**  
**5.5 x 8.5, 240 pages, with 22 illustrations**

**Martha Park** is a writer and illustrator from Memphis, Tennessee. She received an MFA from the Jackson Center for Creative Writing at Hollins University. Her collaborative illustrated journalism has been recognized with an EPPY Award for Best use of Data/Infographics. Martha's work has appeared in *Orion*, *Oxford American*, *The Guardian*, *Grist*, *Guernica*, *The Bitter Southerner*, *ProPublica*, and elsewhere.

### RELATED TITLES



## Praise for *Bodock: Stories*

"Spanning fable, crime, and realist literary fiction, this collection of stories leaves no feeling untouched. By capturing the nuances and complexities of these southern characters with an unfailing eye *Bodock: Stories* presents a universe of experience filled with darkness, humor, and desire." —Maurice Carlos Ruffin, author of *The American Daughters*

"With *Bodock: Stories*, Robert Busby has affixed his own postage stamp to the great and troubled state of Mississippi. The range in these eleven stories is impressive, from short-short to novella, realism to magic realism, young folk to old, historical to contemporary, white to Black, owner to enslaved—and Busby handles all skillfully and with great empathy. William Faulkner has said that to understand the world, one must understand a place like Mississippi. Well, here's Bodock. Here's Mississippi. Here is the world."

—Tom Franklin, author of *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*

"*Bodock: Stories* reads like a desperate confession. A million hurts, shames, and damn mistakes whispered into a lover's ear in the silent black of midnight as the ice gathers on the eaves, with the terrifying hope that the sun will still dare to rise, that we can survive this storm and start again, battered, but forgiven. Busby is devastatingly honest and brazenly hopeful, *Bodock* a striking debut full of insight and variety."

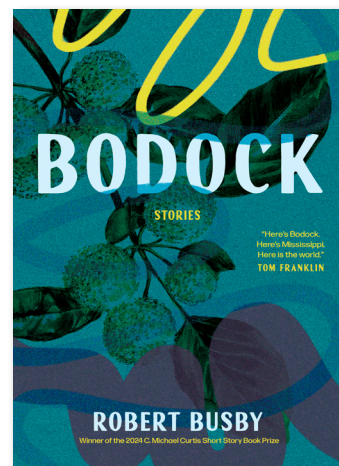
—Meagan Lucas, author of *Here in the Dark*



# Bodock: Stories

Robert Busby

Winner of the C. Michael Curtis  
Short Story Book Prize



In 1994, the real Mid-South Ice Storm strikes the fictitious town of Bodock in Claygardner County, Mississippi.

In the wake of the storm, what is left unbroken, and what broken things can be rebuilt? Hailed by Maurice Carlos Ruffin as “leaving no feeling untouched,” Robert Busby’s debut balances grit with heart, violence with depth, and tragedy with humor.

Two siblings survey the damage to their family’s orchard after the storm while their rich nephew circles in the hopes of buying up the property. A slacker divorcee drives his ex-father-in-law to his lung transplant surgery. A cop tries to piece his broken family back together in the wake of the loss of his son. And in a town that is not quite Bodock, a population of ghosts reckon with their unsettled pasts. In the spirit of Brad Watson’s *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, *Bodock* traverses time and dimensions to surface the struggles of the everyday.

JUNE 3, 2025

PAPERBACK, \$16.95

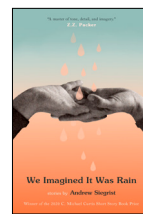
979-8-88574-051-7

FICTION/SHORT STORIES

5.5 x 8.5, 240 pages

Robert Busby writes, runs, and raises two humans with his wife in Memphis, Tennessee. Before that he grew up in a small dry town in the hill country of North Mississippi and got his MFA in Fiction at Florida International University in Miami. His stories have appeared in various literary magazines and anthologies, including *Arkansas Review*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Flash!: Writing the Very Short Story*, *Footnote*, *Mississippi Noir*, *PANK*, *Sou’wester*, and *Surreal South*.

## RELATED TITLES



## Praise for *Junah at the End of the World*

"Brimming with tenderness, humor, and literary brio, *Junah at the End of the World* is a short novel with a big heart. Dan Leach deftly bridges schoolyard sagas of crushes and bullies, with existential insight into the human experience. Through Junah's twelve-year-old eyes, we see the world anew—even as it is poised to (maybe) end—which makes for storytelling that is as poignant as it is surprising."

—Allegra Hyde, author of *The Last Catastrophe*

"Dan Leach has wonderfully pulled off a new New South picaresque novel: bold, imaginative, poignant while still being awfully damn funny."

—Mark Richard, author of *The Ice at the Bottom of the World*

"A time capsule for dreamers and punks. *Junah at the End of the World* curates the secrets of love, faith, and coming-of-age in Carolina at the turn of the millennium."

—Stephen Hundley, author of *Bomb Island*

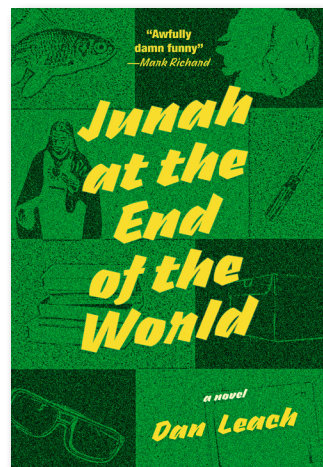
"Dan Leach has managed to write a hilarious and touching novel about grieving for a dying world. *Junah at the End of the World* is a period piece that echoes our own age of anxiety rendered with mercy and love. Dan Leach is a bold new voice from the South, among my favorite writers working today."

—Michael Bible, author of *The Ancient Hours*

# Junah at the End of the World

Dan Leach

Winner of the South Carolina Novel Series



Funny, soulful, and timely, Dan Leach's *Junah at the End of the World* reminds us that it's only after accepting the world's end that we can discover what it means to truly live.

When twelve-year-old Junah Simmons walks into his middle school classroom in September 1999, the chalkboard reads THE END OF THE WORLD IS HERE. In the months leading up to Y2K, Junah's eccentric teacher tasks each of her students to make a time capsule in a shoe box to document their experiences in South Carolina at the end of the world.

Rendered in vignettes and scraps, this kaleidoscopic novel follows Junah as he confronts the catastrophes of youth while wrestling with the notion that the world itself could end in December. With the wit of George Singleton and the punk charm of Sam Pink, Dan Leach is a writer to watch.

JUNE 3, 2025

PAPERBACK, \$17.95

979-8-88574-049-4

FICTION/NOVEL

5 x 8, 224 pages

Dan Leach has published work in *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Southwest Review*, and *The Sun*. He has two collections of short fiction: *Floods and Fires* (University of North Georgia, 2017) and *Dead Mediums* (Trident, 2022). In 2023, Texas Review Press chose him for the Southern Poetry Breakthrough Award and released his collection *Stray Latitudes* (2024). He lives in the lowcountry of South Carolina and teaches writing at Charleston Southern University.

## RELATED TITLES



## Praise for *Hothouse Bloom*

*"Hothouse Bloom* begins inside a fog, and though this fog, in which violence may or may not have occurred, eventually lifts, its memory lingers throughout the novel—quietly, calmly, and uneasily. I had the impression reading this novel that I was viewing an impressionist painting, or occupying the liminal state between sleep and wakefulness. I did not want to break my gaze, or to wake up." —Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint, author of *Names for Light*

*"With its euphonious investigation of the ever-shifting borderline between the existential and the mystical, Hothouse Bloom* immediately establishes Austyn Wohlers as a vital and extraordinary wellspring of the divine. Akin in turns to Redonnet, Lispector, and Tarkovsky, hers is the rare kind of debut that resets the bar for the field at large, convalescing fervent depth and resolve where it's gone missing underneath the wearying veneer of our everyday." —Blake Butler, author of *Molly*

*"Phenomenally talented and exquisitely attuned to the missed apprehension, the dusting of rot suggesting blight, the inexpressible yearning for transmutation that collapses under its own compromised avidity, Austyn Wohlers has crafted a lush and slightly deranged pastoral, like a shoegazing post-feminist Blithedale Romance, as vivid in its commitment to affect as it is lacerating in its sophistication. Hothouse Bloom* reverberates, unfolds, turns fractal, and breaks again and again, tracing the keen edge of consciousness where desire and repulsion merge. A beautiful, bountiful, and harrowing debut." —Roy Scranton, author of *I Heart Oklahoma!*

*"Written with the intensity of Clarice Lispector and the early work of Elena Ferrante, Austyn Wohlers's Hothouse Bloom* is a courageous satire of an idealistic artist turned ruthless capitalist. A thrilling and fevered examination of friendship, ambition, and obsession, *Hothouse Bloom* announces the arrival of a singular and important new voice in literature." —Patrick Cottrell, author of *Sorry to Disrupt the Peace*

# Hothouse Bloom

Austyn Wohlers



In the vein of Rachel Cusk, Han Kang, and Clarice Lispector, *Hothouse Bloom* follows a young woman who renounces her painting career and all her human relationships to become one with her late grand father's apple orchard.

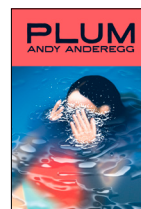
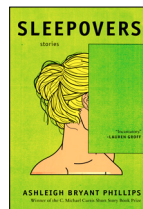
Anna arrives at the orchard with the intention to abjure social life, deverbilize her experience, and adjust her consciousness to the rhythms of the trees. She succeeds, for a time, until the arrival of her old friend Jan, nomadic and lively and at work on a book about the painter Charles Burchfield. Alarmed by her isolation and declining health, he tries to get her painting again, while Anna is determined to show him the orchard as she sees it.

*Hothouse Bloom* is a millennial pastoral, both painterly and critical in its ideas about art, permaculture, subjectivity, and the natural world.

AUGUST 26, 2025  
HARDCOVER, \$24  
979-8-88574-050-0  
FICTION / NOVEL, DEBUT  
5.5 x 8.5, 208 pages

Austyn Wohlers is from Atlanta and currently lives in Brooklyn. Her writing has appeared in *The Massachusetts Review*, *Guernica*, *Asymptote*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. Her debut novel *Hothouse Bloom* is forthcoming from Hub City Press in 2025. It was a finalist for FC2's Ronald Sukenick Prize and was chosen by Thirri Myo Kyaw Myint as the 2022-2023 Sparks Prize winner at The University of Notre Dame. She is also a musician, playing with the psychedelic pop band Tomato Flower and drone music alone under her name.

## RELATED TITLES



# Lullaby for the Grieving

Ashley M. Jones



*Lullaby for the Grieving* is the fourth poetry collection from PEN/Voelker-longlisted poet Ashley M. Jones.

Jones, the first Black and youngest Poet Laureate of Alabama, writes grief, both personal and political, in traditional and nontraditional forms. These poems explore the lows and the unexpected highs of a grief-stricken life and they also chronicle the ways in which grief can leave room for joy, love, curiosity, and hope.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

PAPERBACK, \$16

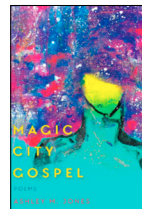
979-8-88574-058-6

POETRY

6 x 9, 64 pages

Ashley M. Jones served as the first Black and youngest Poet Laureate of Alabama from 2022-2026. She is the author of three previous collections of poetry, including *Reparations Now!*, longlisted for the PEN/Voelker Poetry Award. Jones and her work have been featured by *Poetry*, *Good Morning America*, the *BBC*, the *New York Times* and other publications. Jones holds an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University, and she is currently a PhD student in English at Old Dominion University. She is the founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival in Birmingham, Alabama.

## RELATED TITLES



# the past is a jean jacket

Cloud Delfina Cardona



Reminiscent of being in a heavily postered room with rock music blasting, cloud delfina cardona's debut collection *the past is a jean jacket* is a time capsule of a 90s queer, Latinx teenhood.

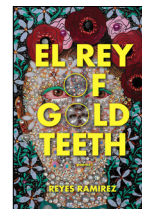
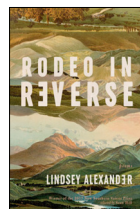
Cardona's speaker explores their gender through sex and relationships, searches for belonging in their family lineage, and copes with depression using movies, indie bands, cigarettes, and tumblr.

Evocative and blunt, *the past is a jean jacket* asks the essential existential questions: "where did all the wishes of my ancestors go? / what memory of me will play in someone's head before i die for the final time?"

OCTOBER 14, 2025  
PAPERBACK, \$16.00  
979-8-88574-059-3  
POETRY  
6 x 9, 80 pages

Cloud Delfina Cardona (she/they) is an artist and writer from San Antonio, TX. She is the author of *What Remains*, winner of the Host Publications Chapbook Prize. She is the co-founder of *Infrarrealista Review*, a literary nonprofit that publishes Texan voices. She has received editorial fellowships from Macmillan in collaboration with Latinx in Publishing and Texas State University's Center for the Study of the Southwest. They have been a workshop participant at Tin House and Macondo's Writing Workshop. Their poetry can be found in *Prairie Schooner*, *The Boiler*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and more.

## RELATED TITLES





**HUB CITY**  
**PRESS**

PUBLISHING  
*New & Extraordinary*  
VOICES FROM THE  
AMERICAN SOUTH

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