



They Could No Longer Contain Themselves: A Collection of Five Flash Chapbooks

By Elizabeth J. Colen, John Jodzio, Tim Jones-Yelvington, Sean Lovelace, Mary Miller

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Fiction. **THEY COULD NO LONGER CONTAIN THEMSELVES** contains—but just barely—five chapbooks of flash fiction, including the winner of the third annual Rose Metal Press short short chapbook contest, and four of the finalists from the fourth. Dropped toddlers, attempted drownings, juvenile promiscuity, road trips, and inappropriate therapy sessions compose the multi-voiced family portrait in *Dear Mother Monster*, *Dear Daughter Mistake* by Elizabeth J. Colen. Yoga stalkers, guns and gold, babies with iron stomachs, drunkards with t-shirt cannons, and warlocks are the stuff of *Do Not Touch Me Not Now Not Ever* by John Jodzio. Dominatrixes and fetishists, face paint and goo, fierce parental love and perverse longings cohabit in *Evan's House and the Other Boys Who Live There* by Tim Jones-Yelvington. Leukemia, meteorites, Wal-Mart, bocce ball, Charlie Brown's clinical depression, the language of talking crows and of Che Guevara's omelets fill the eggs in *How Some People Like Their Eggs* by Sean Lovelace. And smallstories about pretty girls who sit quietly and behave themselves (or not) populate the pages of *Paper and Tassels* by Mary Miller.

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They Could No Longer Contain Themselves: A Collection of Five Flash Chapbooks

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Editorial Review

Review

Rose Metal Press has done it again. A wonderful range of voices comes at you from this collection of flash fictions with stories that haunt, that tell of grit and love and loss and longing with the kind of detail and patience that makes your teeth ache. --Sherrie Flick, author of *I Call This Flirting*

It's often said if you want to get a true feel for a story writer's work you need to read at least one entire collection by that writer. The Rose Metal Press chapbooks speed this up. With a collection of collections like *They Could No Longer Contain Themselves*, you begin to get a feel for an entire generation of writers. --Robert Shapard, coeditor of *Sudden Fiction Latino*

What a fantastic collection. Wow! What emerges is the sense of the possibilities of compression and conviction, each piece complete in itself, connected to the whole. Throughout is Jodzio's 'tiny spark, that small bit of combustion deep inside,' a desire that demands our intense attention, that, to rephrase Colen, might steal breath back if we look away. It's all so full of wonder and surprise, where purple thermoses meet the edge of sky, couples spread arms and fingers to quantify love, and Charlie Brown, in 'this same musty shirt, 34 years,' writes it all down. --Randall Brown, author of *Mad to Live*

About the Author

Elizabeth J. Colen is the author of prose poetry collection *Money for Sunsets* (Steel Toe Books, 2010). She resides in the Pacific Northwest and is poetry editor of *Thumbnail Magazine*.

John Jodzio is a winner of the Loft-McKnight Fellowship. His stories have appeared in *One Story*, *Barrelhouse*, *Opium*, *The Florida Review*, and various other places in print and online. A collection of his short stories, *If You Lived Here You'd Already Be Home*, was recently published by Replacement Press. He lives in Minneapolis.

Tim Jones-Yelvington has been called the Lady Gaga of the Chicago lit scene. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Sleepingfish*, *Annalemma*, and many others. He has guest edited for *Pank* and *Smokelong Quarterly*, and serves as the President of the Board of Directors of *Artifice Magazine*.

Sean Lovelace is a professor of creative writing at Ball State University. He writes fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Recent publications include *Willow Springs*, *Diagram*, *Sonora Review*, and *Black Warrior Review*. His works have won several awards, including the prestigious Crazyhorse Fiction Prize.

Mary Miller is the author of a story collection, *Big World* (Short Flight/Long Drive), and a chapbook, *Less Shiny* (Magic Helicopter Press). Her stories have appeared in *McSweeney's Quarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, *American Short Fiction*, *Mississippi Review*, and *Oxford American*, and have been anthologized in *New Stories from the South 2008* and Dzanc's *Best of the Web 2010*. She lives in Austin, where she is a Michener Fellow at the University of Texas.

Users Review

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Darren Custer:

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