

ABSTRACT

A QUEENLESS BOX OF BEES

This collection of stories represents most of my creative output from the last several years, and can roughly be divided into two, maybe three, distinct groups. The first five stories are part of a much larger work-in-progress, a novel-in-progress that centers around a group of characters growing up in the Florida Panhandle during the 1970s. Four of the pieces presented here are written from the point of view of the same character, Sam, who turns out to be the primary protagonist of the work as a whole. The themes on display in these stories range across many that are frequently explored in literary fiction: the cost of love; the effects of violence; the difficulty of communication; the tragedy of racism; the dysfunction of families. Perhaps in reaction to this intense group of (mostly) downbeat stories, the remaining pieces range further afield, both in time and space, and in their use of the imaginative faculty. I hope they are an accurate reflection of where I have been as a writer, as well as where I am headed.

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