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The Browser

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www.beaverdalebooks.com

OCTOBER 2018

Back Room/Front Page: Off and running

It seems like we've gone from air conditioning to firing up the furnace within the past few days – Iowa fall weather (all weather?) can change within the same day! It's kind of been the same for the bookstore. Summer – especially August – can be relatively quiet, and suddenly it's September and things start to go crazy. Back to school, offsite events, and the Beaverdale Fall Festival are some of the “front of house” things you see going on; underneath it all we are placing holiday orders and meeting with sales reps for spring titles. It's a fun time!

There's a lot going on at the store this month with nine author events on the schedule – everything from memoir (both nostalgic and powerful) to mystery, local history, fiction, and even a ukulele lesson! Stop by and learn something new.

There are also some events going on in Des Moines that may grab your interest – the Des Moines Public Library Foundation is hosting its annual Iowa Author Awards Dinner on October 5, and this year actor/author Nick Nolte will be featured. Get the details [here](#).

Also the Des Moines Downtown Partnership has announced the date for the new [DSM Book Festival](#). At this time, details are still being finalized and authors are still being booked, but there will be a lot going on and you'll get to experience author events and lots more! Keep checking for updated information.

Meanwhile, new books are arriving every week, so stop by and check out our “New Releases” table. Fall is a big season for new books, and every Tuesday the table is updated. Find your next good read!

Thanks for reading,
Alice

October Best Sellers:

These were the Top Ten sellers in our store last month - see what everyone's reading!

1. *Fear: Trump in the White House*, Bob Woodward
2. *Becoming Leonardo*, Mike Lankford
3. *Deadly Ground*, Tom Starbuck*
4. *Educated*, Tara Westover
5. *The Way of Nile C. Kinnick, Jr.: Insights, Images, and Stories of Iowa's 1939 Heisman Trophy Winner*, Mark D. Wilson*
6. *Night Unto Night: Poems*, Martha Collins*
7. *Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies about Who You Are So You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be*, Rachel Hollis
8. *Heart Land*, Kimberly Stuart*
9. *Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas*, Dav Pilkey
10. *The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas

*Iowa Author!

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Thursday, October 4

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Gary Porter

Town Kid

Friday, October 5

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Mindy Mejia

Leave No Trace

Sunday, October 7

2:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

Jeanne Bishop

Change of Heart

Monday, October 8

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

M. Louise Gately with Jan Davison

Pursuit of a Dream: James Jordan,

His Life and His Legacy

Wednesday, October 17

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Dan Scanlan

How to Play Ukulele

Saturday, October 20

2:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

Betty Moffett

Coming Clean

Monday, October 22

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Ashley Lovell

The Wish

Thursday, October 25

6:30 p.m.

Meet the Author

Barbara Feller

Road to Waubeek

Sunday, October 28

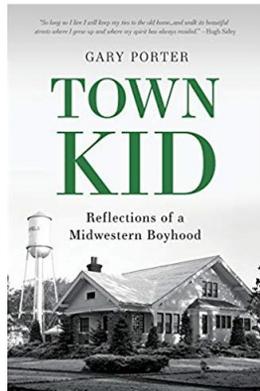
2:00 p.m.

Meet the Author

Erin Stevenson

Home to You

**Thursday
October 4
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Gary Porter

Town Kid: Reflections of a Midwestern Boyhood

A simpler place and time - growing up in the small town of Greenfield, Iowa, during the fifties and sixties. Before soccer camps and video games, the swimming pool across the street was a second home during the dog days of summer. The town square the equivalent of a modern-day Walmart. The fairgrounds on the edge of town a magical place for a young boy.

The people in this small town also left a lasting impression - from the Irish priest, to the pipe-smoking neighbor, to the diminutive aunt and uncle with over-sized hearts. And then there was Sparky, the Pepsi-loving bay pony.

Come along as author Gary Porter - the *Town Kid* - takes you on a sentimental journey down memory lane, enlivened with captivating black-and-white photos from the Sidey Collection.

About the Author...

Gary Porter grew up in Greenfield, Iowa. He graduated from Drake University, where he is currently a Distinguished Lecturer. Gary lives in Hudson, Wisconsin, with his wife, Melissa, and their rescue dog, Polly. He is the author of numerous accounting textbooks and *Duffy: The Tale of a Terrier*, a book inspired by the couple's first shelter dog.

**Beaverdale Writers Group
Tuesday, October 2 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Hunter's Picks Book Club
Tuesday, October 9 @ 7:00 p.m.**
To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee

**Beaverdale Book Browsers
Thursday, October 11 @ 7:00 p.m.**
Under the Banner of Heaven
by Jon Krakauer

Monday, October 15 @ 6:00 p.m.
Urbandale United Church of Christ
The Cellist of Sarajevo
by Steven Galloway

**Environmental Book Club
Saturday, October 20 @ 10:00 a.m.**
Climate Church, Climate World
by Jim Antal

Tuesday, October 23 @ 7:00 p.m.
Mystery Book Club
Silent Creed
by Alex Kava

Monday, October 29 @ 6:00 p.m.
Mind-Body-Spirit Book Club
Awakening the Buddha Within
by Lama Surya Das

Connect with us!



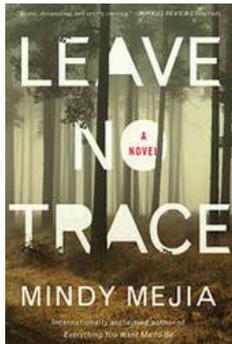
OVER
2200
LIKES!



OVER
2300
FOLLOWERS!

Just hit CTRL + click above to like or follow us!

**Friday
October 5
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Mindy Mejia

Leave No Trace

There is a place in Minnesota with hundreds of miles of glacial lakes and untouched forests called the Boundary Waters. Ten years ago a man and his son trekked into this wilderness and never returned.

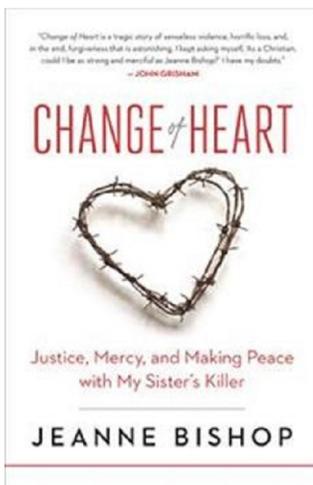
Search teams found their campsite ravaged by what looked like a bear. They were presumed dead until a decade later...the son appeared. Discovered while ransacking an outfitter store, he was violent and uncommunicative and sent to a psychiatric facility. Maya Stark, the assistant language therapist, is charged with making a connection with their high-profile patient. No matter how she tries, however, he refuses to answer questions about his father or the last ten years of his life.

But Maya, who was abandoned by her own mother, has secrets, too. And as she's drawn closer to this enigmatic boy who is no longer a boy, she'll risk everything to reunite him with his father who has disappeared from the known world.

About the Author...

Mindy Mejia received her MFA from Hamline University. Her debut novel, *The Dragon Keeper*, was published by Ashland Creek Press in 2012. She lives in the Twin Cities with her husband and two children. She is the author of *Everything You Want Me to Be* and *Leave No Trace*.

**Sunday
October 7
1:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Jeanne Bishop

Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy, and Making Peace with My Sister's Killer

This powerful, true story of faith and forgiveness shows that all of us are capable of experiencing the healing and renewal that comes with truly forgiving another. *Change of Heart* follows the transformative journey undertaken by Jeanne Bishop after the murders of her sister and brother-in-law, a journey that challenged Jeanne's belief in the message of Jesus on the cross and eventually moved her beyond simple forgiveness to the deeper waters of redemption and grace. Jeanne's authentic story will guide readers past the temptation of anger and revenge, and help them navigate the path of truly forgiving someone whose actions have hardened their heart.

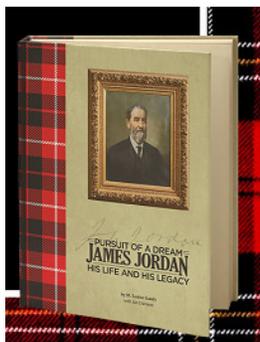
From once wishing that her sister's killer languished in a cell for the rest of his life, Jeanne now visits him regularly in prison and publicly advocates for his release. "It's not okay what you did, but I am not going to hate you. I am not going to wish evil on you," writes Bishop of the murderer. "I am going to wish the opposite. I am going to wish that you will be redeemed."

About the Author...

Jeanne Bishop is the sister of Nancy Bishop Langert, who was shot to death at age 25 along with her husband and their unborn child. Since the murders of her family members, Jeanne Bishop has been a prominent advocate for gun violence prevention, abolition of the death penalty, exoneration of the innocent and the role of faith in the debate over executions.

A graduate of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and Northwestern University School of Law, Ms. Bishop also attended Yale Law School as a Visiting Student. She is an adjunct professor of law at Northwestern and a recipient of its alumni award for public service. She is co-recipient of the Brigid Award bestowed by the humanitarian organization Concern Worldwide on women of compassion and justice. Ms. Bishop is an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Cook County (IL) Public Defender.

**Monday
October 8
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Louise Gately with Jan Davison

Pursuit of a Dream: James Jordan, His Life and His Legacy

This groundbreaking book – the first one written about James Jordan – reveals Jordan’s important role in making Des Moines the capital city of Iowa, shaping early Iowa business and politics, aiding fugitive slaves as they escaped through the Underground Railroad, and much more. The book tells the story of the Jordan family’s decision to settle in Iowa and how it changed during the Victorian era. Full of fascinating history about the greater Des Moines area, the book shares little-known facts and stories readers will enjoy.

About the Author...

M. Louise Gately earned a B.A. in History and Social Science and an M.S.E. in Higher Ed. Administration/Development from Drake University. She served on the board of West Des Moines Historical Society for 25 years and is the Jordan Historian in West Des Moines. Her home overlooks Jordan Creek where she resides with her husband, Gary Gately. **Jan Davison** earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design/journalism from Drake University. A former freelance graphic artist and director of communications, she now spends her time drawing, painting, writing, volunteering and enjoying her family – husband Polk Davison, daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

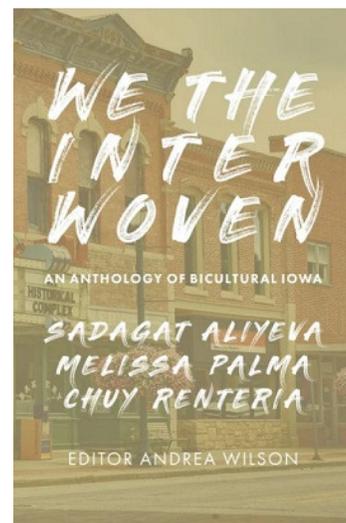
At the Gallery

**Monday, October 15
6:30 p.m.**

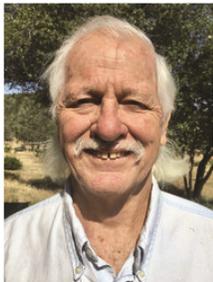
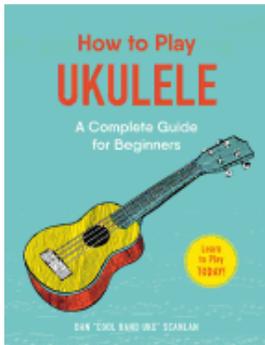


We the Interwoven:
An Anthology of Bicultural Iowa
by Chuy Renteria of West
Liberty/Iowa City, Sadagat Aliyeva
of Des Moines, & Melissa Palma of
Waterloo.
Edited by Andrea Wilson.

218 5th Street, West Des Moines
<http://www.artisangallery218.com/>



**Wednesday
October 17
1:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Dan Scanlan

How to Play Ukulele: A Complete Guide for Beginners

Learn to play the ukulele with this beginner's guide that features information about basic techniques, tools, and music knowledge.

What do George Clooney, Zooey Deschanel, Ryan Gosling and James Franco all have in common? Answer: they all play the ukulele and now, with this easy step-by-step guide, you can too! With just this book and your ukulele in hand, you'll learn basic music skills, how to care for your instrument, and how to play some simple tunes. Whether you're looking to impress your friends with spontaneous singalongs, or just want to strum solo, *How to Play Ukulele* is the perfect entryway to the wonderful world of ukulele.

About the Author...

Dan Scanlan has been many things—an English teacher, news reporter, songwriter, software programmer, layout artist, community radio personality—but the ukulele has been with him for more than sixty years. His Strum Bums ukulele orchestra was featured in the *Mighty Uke* documentary, and he coordinated the return of the ukulele to its ancestral home in Madeira Island, Portugal in 1998, culminating in a performance at the Lisbon World's Fair. He also authored the interactive ebook *Cool Hand Uke's Way To Love Uke!* Dan has taught the ukulele for thirty years and has several thousand online ukulele students in seventy-two countries. Visit him at CoolHandUke.com.

**Saturday
October 20
2:00 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Betty Moffett

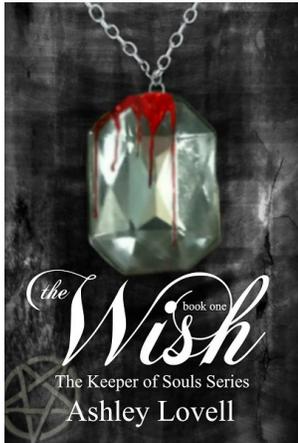
Coming Clean

Very early in my life I learned to love the stories I heard on my grandmother's screen porch. Soon after, an intense love affair with Black Beauty taught me the power of stories to transform and transport. All my life, when someone says, "Let me tell you a story," I have known I will soon learn more about that person than the most thorough recounting of historic detail could ever reveal—and I will have more fun on the way. I offer you these stories—about what growing up meant to four different generations; about neighbors, horses, prejudice, sweethearts, students; about moving, marriage, grandchildren and dogs. I hope they remind you of your own stories. I wish I could hear them.

About the Author...

Betty Moffett was born, reared, educated, and married in North Carolina. After four years of teaching high school English and two dramatic years working with the Asolo Theatre in Florida, she, her husband Sandy, and their young son Ruben moved to Grinnell, Iowa, where they planned to stay a year and then return to the sweet sunny South. But they liked the old farm house they fixed up, riding horses in the prairie, teaching at Grinnell College, and playing with the Too Many String Band. Almost five decades later, they're still in Grinnell and glad of it. Betty taught for nearly thirty years in the college's Writing Lab and then began using the advice she offered to her students in her own work. Her stories have appeared in various magazines and journals.

**Monday
October 22
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Ashley Lovell

The Wish

When Alivia's grandpa Quinn passes away, she never felt so alone until one day she ventured out into the woods and came face-to-face with the witch, Inga who gives her a crystal stone to make a wish and the next morning Alivia finds her grandpa well and alive in the kitchen. Was losing him just a dream or was it all in your head? Now that Alivia has him back, she's happier than ever. But in the following day when she wakes her grandpa is dead... Again. And now Inga's dark forces are out to get what Inga desperately needs, Alivia's soul. Alivia sets out to unravel the history of Inga's past and teams up with Geena who is a paranormal researcher, a medium and a psychic to bring down the evil stocking the woods.

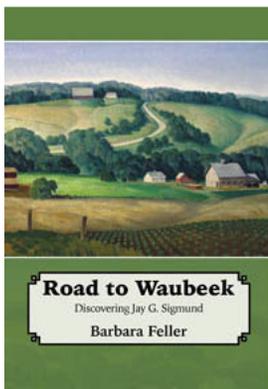
About the Author...

Ashley Lovell is the author of her first published novel *The Wish*. She lives in her apartment with her two cats (Spook and Batman). She started to write in the summer of 2005. Throughout her writing career she has written lyrics, poems, short stories and novel series. She joined the Marion County writers workshop in 2010. She was in the top 10 in the right place book contest. And also she has several short stories featured.

When Ashley was growing up she lived out in the country surrounded by cows, chickens, cats, dogs, corn fields, dirt roads and she loves to drink French vanilla coffee in the mornings when she writes. She is also a big supporter of black cats and believes they are good luck. She loves to write creepy ghostly stories in the pitch darkness.

You can find Ashley at Facebook Twitter Pinterest and Instagram to see updates and news on her work.

**Thursday
October 25
6:30 p.m.**



Meet the Author

Barbara Feller

Road to Waubeek: Discovering Jay G. Sigmund

At the crossroads of two cultural icons exists Jay G. Sigmund, born in Waubeek, Iowa. As the Regionalist movement was in full swing guess who had an enormous influence on well-known artist Grant Wood? Jay Sigmund. Also at this time a paperboy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was working on his interests in writing poetry with Jay Sigmund. Who was this paperboy? Another icon from eastern Iowa, Paul Engle, best known as the long-time director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and as founder of the International Writing Program (IWP), both at the University of Iowa.

In his time, Jay Sigmund was a successful insurance agent, but also a nationally respected and well-known author who clearly had a major impact on Midwestern culture through his love of place, such as the Wapsipinicon River, Waubeek, Iowa, and locations in and around Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

About the Author...

Native New Yorker **Barbara Feller** fell in love with Iowa and Iowans while working as an educator in area schools and museums. A part time teacher at Temple Judah since 1979, Barbara retired from her more public venue in 2013 with a desire to share inspiring stories of the history of her adopted community. Jay Sigmund and Grant Wood top that list.

It's Better in Beaverdale

Come to Beaverdale the last Thursday of the month from 5-8 pm and enjoy what the local businesses have to offer! Enjoy food & drink specials, live music, promotions and other events. Come and enjoy our beautiful new streetscape!



October 25

**20% off
Children's
Books**

FUNDRAISE SUNDAYS

If your group or organization is looking for a quick and easy way to raise money, give us a call. We will dedicate a Sunday to your cause and donate 20% of the day's sales! Whether your group is a PTA, church youth group, sports team or other charity, we can help. All you need to do is publicize the event and get your supporters to come to the store that day to purchase books, and we'll do the rest!

CALL US NOW AT 279-5400 to set up a day to raise funds for your cause!

**Sunday Store hours:
Noon – 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday
October 28
1:00 p.m.**

COVER ART
NOT YET
AVAILABLE



Meet the Author

Erin Stevenson

Home to You

Brandon St. Clair is one of Minneapolis' top orthopedic surgeons. Still crushed by his wife's sudden death almost a year ago, he's struggling to care for their two young daughters and find the will to keep going. Their one wish is something Brandon can't fulfill, and it breaks his heart.

Morgan Anderson is a highly respected art therapist in Chicago. Her work gives her great fulfillment, but her personal life is lonely and lacking. A deep personal secret has kept Morgan from succeeding in any long-term relationship, and she's ready to give up.

Brandon's brother is married to Morgan's sister, and they meet at a family event. Their initial dislike of one another plus the fact that they live in different states almost guarantees that they'll never connect. But sometimes God--with a little help from a pink-haired matchmaker named Rosie--can make what seems impossible, possible.

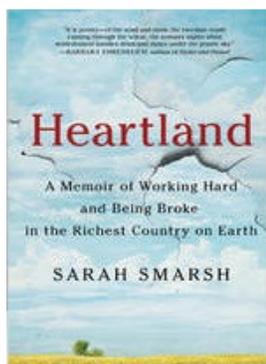
About the Author...

Writing is like breathing to **Erin Stevenson**. Stories are running through her mind during most of her waking hours, and by the time she sits down at the computer, the words flow and time ceases to exist. Erin was raised in Illinois and has lived in many places in the U.S., including on both coasts, but is a Midwest girl at heart. She spent many years as an educator from pre-school through college levels, and currently works in training and internal communications for a major global corporation. When she's not writing, Erin loves spending time with her children and grandchildren, and playing in the garden (which equates to mostly pulling weeds) at her central Iowa home. Her secret indulgence is plain M&Ms.



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR HANDSELLING FAVORITES WITH A STRONG MIDWEST REGIONAL APPEAL

HEARTLAND by Sarah Smarsh



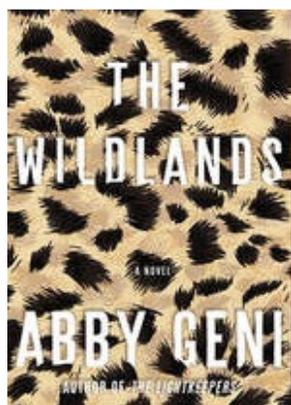
Longlisted for the National Book Award for Nonfiction

During Sarah Smarsh's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, the forces of cyclical poverty and the country's changing economic policies solidified her family's place among the working poor. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country and examine the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less. Her personal history affirms the corrosive impact intergenerational poverty can have on individuals, families, and communities, and she explores this idea as lived experience, metaphor, and level of consciousness.

Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up as the daughter of a dissatisfied young mother and raised predominantly by her grandmother on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working class Americans living in the heartland. Combining memoir with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, *Heartland* is an uncompromising look at class, identity, and the particular perils of having less in a country known for its excess.

Sarah Smarsh has covered socioeconomic class, politics, and public policy for *The Guardian*, *VQR*, *NewYorker.com*, *Harpers.org*, *The Texas Observer*, and many others. She is currently a Joan Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. A former professor of nonfiction writing, Smarsh is a frequent speaker on economic inequality and related media narratives. She lives in Kansas. *Heartland* is her first book.

THE WILDLANDS by Abby Geni



When a Category 5 tornado ravaged Mercy, Oklahoma, no family in the small town lost more than the McClouds. Their home and farm were instantly demolished, and orphaned siblings Darlene, Jane, and Cora made media headlines. This relentless national attention and the tornado's aftermath caused great tension with their brother, Tucker, who soon abandoned his sisters and disappeared.

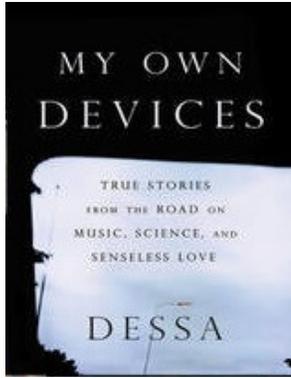
On the three-year anniversary of the tornado, a cosmetics factory outside of Mercy is bombed, and the lab animals trapped within are released. Tucker reappears, injured from the blast, and seeks the help of nine-year-old Cora. Caught up in the thrall of her charismatic brother, whom she has desperately missed, Cora agrees to accompany Tucker on a cross-country mission to make war on human civilization.

Cora becomes her brother's unwitting accomplice, taking on a new identity while engaging in acts of escalating violence. Darlene works with Mercy police to find her siblings, leading to an unexpected showdown at a zoo in Southern California. *The Wildlands* is another remarkable literary thriller from critically acclaimed writer Abby Geni, one that examines what happens when one family becomes trapped in the tenuous space between the human and animal worlds.

Abby Geni is the author of *The Lightkeepers*, winner of the 2016 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award for Fiction and the inaugural *Chicago Review of Books* Awards for Best Fiction, as well as *The Last Animal*, an Indies Introduce Debut Writers Selection and a finalist for the Orion Book Award. Geni is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a recipient of the Iowa Fellowship.

MY OWN DEVICES

by Dessa



Dessa defies category--she is an intellectual with an international rap career and an inhaler in her backpack; a creative writer fascinated by philosophy and behavioral science; and a funny, charismatic performer dogged by blue moods and heartache. She's ferocious on stage and endearingly neurotic in the tour van. Her stunning literary debut memoir stitches together poignant insights on love, science, and language--a demonstration of just how far the mind can travel while the body is on a six-hour ride to the next gig.

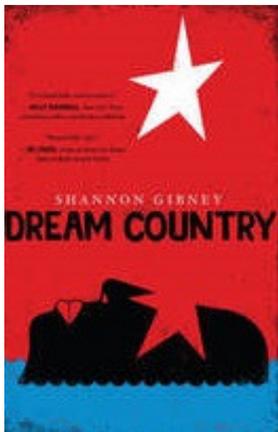
In "The Fool That Bets Against Me," Dessa writes to Geico to request a commercial insurance policy for the broken heart that's helped her write so many sad songs. "A Ringing in the Ears" tells the story of her father building a wooden airplane in their backyard garage. In "Congratulations," she describes the challenge of recording a song for *The Hamilton Mixtape* in a Minneapolis basement, straining for a high note and hoping for a break. "Call off Your Ghost" chronicles the fascinating project she undertook with a team of neuroscientists to try and clinically excise romantic feelings for an old flame. Her writing is infused with scientific research, dry wit, a philosophical perspective, and an abiding tenderness for the people she tours with and the people she leaves behind to be on the road.

My Own Devices is an uncompromising and candid account of a life in motion, in music, and in love. Dessa is as compelling on the page as she is onstage, making *My Own Devices* the debut of a unique and deft literary voice.

Dessa is a rapper, a singer, an essayist, and a proud member of the Doomtree hip-hop crew. She's performed around the world at opera houses and rock clubs and while standing on barroom tables. She's landed on the *Billboard* Top 200 list as a solo artist (*Parts of Speech*, *Chime*), as a Doomtree member (*All Hands*), and as a contributor to *The Hamilton Mixtape*. As a writer, she's contributed to the *New York Times Magazine*, Minnesota Public Radio, the *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis), *Minnesota Monthly*, literary journals across the country, and has published two short collections of poetry and essays. She now splits her time between Manhattan, Minneapolis, and a tour van cruising at six miles per hour above the posted limit.

DREAM COUNTRY

by Shannon Gibney



Dream Country begins in suburban Minneapolis at the moment when seventeen-year-old Kollie Flomo begins to crack under the strain of his life as a Liberian refugee. He's exhausted by being at once too black and not black enough for his African American peers and worn down by the expectations of his own Liberian family and community. When his frustration finally spills into violence and his parents send him back to Monrovia to reform school, the story shifts. Like Kollie, readers travel back to Liberia, but also back in time, to the early twentieth century and the point of view of Togar Somah, an eighteen-year-old indigenous Liberian on the run from government militias that would force him to work the plantations of the Congo people, descendants of the African American slaves who colonized Liberia almost a century earlier. When Togar's section draws to a shocking close, the novel jumps again, back to America in 1827, to the children of Yasmine Wright, who leave a Virginia plantation with their mother for Liberia, where they're promised freedom and a chance at self-determination by the American Colonization Society. The Wrights begin their section by fleeing the whip and by its close, they are then the ones who wield it. With each new section, the novel uncovers fresh hope and resonating heartbreak, all based on historical fact.

In *Dream Country*, Shannon Gibney spins a riveting tale of the nightmarish spiral of death and exile connecting America and Africa, and of how one determined young dreamer tries to break free and gain control of her destiny.

Shannon Gibney is an author and university professor. Her novel *See No Color*, drawn from her life as a transracial adoptee, won the Minnesota Book Award and was hailed by *Kirkus* as "an exceptionally accomplished debut" and by *Publishers Weekly* as "an unflinching look at the complexities of racial identity." Her essay "Fear of a Black Mother" appears in the anthology *A Good Time for the Truth*. She lives with her two Liberian-American children in Minneapolis, Minnesota. www.shannongibney.com and [@gibneyshannon](https://twitter.com/gibneyshannon)