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# Notre Dame Mfa Creative Writing

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MFA in a Box

War Porn

Mixed Company

How They Spend Their Sundays

Mechanica (bk 1)

Bodyminds Reimagined

Call Me Zebra

The Insider's Guide to Graduate Degrees in Creative Writing

Ctasy

The Creative Writing MFA Handbook

A Visitor Kills Me

A Bundle of Careful Compromises

A History of Irish Women's Poetry

Notre Dame Review

May We Have That in Writing?

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*Notre Dame Mfa  
Creative Writing*

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## **BRIGGS DRAVEN**

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### MFA in a Box Skyscape

Everyone in Phoebe Ferris's life tells a different version of the truth. Her mother, Meg, ex-rock star and professional question evader, shares only the end of the story—the post-fame calm that Phoebe's always known. Her sister Luna, indie rock darling of Brooklyn, preaches a stormy truth of her own making, selectively ignoring the facts she doesn't like. And her father, Kieran, the co-founder of Meg's beloved band, hasn't said anything at all since he

stopped calling three years ago. But Phoebe, a budding poet in search of an identity to call her own, is tired of half-truths and vague explanations. When she visits Luna in New York, she's determined to find out how she fits in to this family of storytellers, and maybe even to continue her own tale—the one with the musician boy she's been secretly writing for months. This soul-searching, authentic debut weaves together Phoebe's story with scenes from the romance between Meg and Kieran that started it all—leaving behind a heartfelt reflection on family, fame, and finding your own way.

**War Porn** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Marking the tenth anniversary of the New Writing Viewpoints series, this new book takes the concept of an edited collection to its extreme, pushing the possibilities of scholarship and collaboration. All authors in this book, including those who contributed to Power and Identity in the Creative Writing Classroom, which launched the series ten years ago, are proof that creative writing matters, that it can be rewarding over the long haul and that there exist many ways to do what we do as writers and as teachers. This book captures a wide swathe of ideas on pedagogy, on programs, on the profession and on careers.

*Mixed Company* Cambridge University Press

The poems included in this poetry

collection are full of impressive vigor. In these poems we admire the poet's delicate touch and the felicity of expression. The poet shows great imaginative power. The flowing ease of expression confirms the fact that the style of these poems has an impressive spontaneity. BIO Steve Owen has a PhD in creative writing and literature from the University of Utah, an MFA in creative writing from Notre Dame University, and he's taught composition, literature, and creative writing for 11 years. His writing has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes (2020 and 2021), and he has received four awards for his fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. His writing investigates language's oppressive effects on cognition, empathy, and identity. His short fiction, poetry,

nonfiction, and critical analysis have been published by a number of print and online journals, including: Phantom Drift, The Notre Dame Review, decomP magazinE, Otis Nebula, Quarterly West, Typehouse, Flatmancrooked's Slim Volume of Contemporary Poetics, and The Bend.

How They Spend Their Sundays Soho Press

The Low-Residency MFA Handbook offers prospective graduate students an in-depth preview of low-residency creative writing MFA programs. Interviews with program directors, faculty, alumni, and current students answer the many questions prospective graduates have, including: What happens during the non-residency semester? What are the brief residencies like? What community is

established between faculty and fellow students? What opportunities are there for writers to gain pedagogical training through a low-residency format? And, most importantly, is the low-residency model right for you? These questions, and more, are answered in detail. The guide also clarifies the application process and offers application tips from program directors and alumni. It also considers funding, program structures, and unique opportunities such as editorships and assistantships. For prospective graduate students looking for detailed information, The Low-Residency MFA Handbook provides a personalized and genuinely useful overview.

**Mechanica (bk 1)** Continuum  
The debut book of poetry from Madison

McCartha.

Bodyminds Reimagined Other Press, LLC

This year's volume, featuring 17 new stories selected by award-winning novelist John Casey, continues the tradition of identifying the best young writers on the cusp of their careers.

**Call Me Zebra** A&C Black

In Bodyminds Reimagined Sami Schalk traces how black women's speculative fiction complicates the understanding of bodyminds—the intertwining of the mental and the physical—in the context of race, gender, and (dis)ability. Bridging black feminist theory with disability studies, Schalk demonstrates that this genre's political potential lies in the authors' creation of bodyminds that transcend reality's limitations. She reads (dis)ability in neo-slave narratives by

Octavia Butler (Kindred) and Phyllis Alesia Perry (Stigmata) not only as representing the literal injuries suffered under slavery, but also as a metaphor for the legacy of racial violence. The fantasy worlds in works by N. K. Jemisin, Shawntelle Madison, and Nalo Hopkinson—where werewolves have obsessive-compulsive-disorder and blind demons can see magic—destabilize social categories and definitions of the human, calling into question the very nature of identity. In these texts, as well as in Butler's Parable series, able-mindedness and able-bodiedness are socially constructed and upheld through racial and gendered norms. Outlining (dis)ability's centrality to speculative fiction, Schalk shows how these works open new social possibilities while

changing conceptualizations of identity and oppression through nonrealist contexts.

*The Insider's Guide to Graduate Degrees in Creative Writing* Bloomsbury Publishing

"Brisk, ironic ... scalpel-sharp.... A funny, cohesive, and moving collection of stories." --The New York Times Book Review In these tales of loss and pleasure, lovers and family, a woman learns to conduct an affair, a child of divorce dances with her mother, and a woman with a terminal illness contemplates her exit. Filled with the sharp humor, emotional acuity, and joyful language Moore has become famous for, these nine glittering tales marked the introduction of an extravagantly gifted writer.

Ctasy iUniverse

A new novel by PEN/Faulkner Award winner Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi--"if you don't know this name yet, you should" (Entertainment Weekly)--about a young woman caught in an affair with a much older man, a personal and political exploration of desire, power, and human connection. It's summer when Arezu, an Iranian American teenager, goes to Spain to meet her estranged father at an apartment he owns there. He never shows up, instead sending her a weekly allowance, care of his step-nephew, Omar, a forty-year-old Lebanese man. As the weeks progress, Arezu is drawn into a mercurial, charged, and ultimately catastrophic affair with Omar, a relationship that shatters her just at the cusp of adulthood. Two decades later,

Arezu inherits the apartment. She returns with her best friend, Ellie, an Israeli-American scholar devoted to the Palestinian cause, to excavate the place and finally put to words a trauma she's long held in silence. Together, she and Ellie catalog the questions of agency, sexuality, displacement, and erasure that surface as Arezu confronts the ghosts of that summer, crafting between them a story that spans continents and centuries. Equal parts Marguerite Duras and Shirley Jackson, Rachel Cusk and Samanta Schweblin, *Savage Tongues* is a compulsive, unsettling, and bravely observed exploration of violence and eroticism, haunting and healing, and the profound intimacy born of the deepest pain.

*The Creative Writing MFA Handbook*

Cyberwit.Net

"Featuring instruction from past and present faculty members of the acclaimed M.F.A. in Writing Program at Vermont College of Fine Arts, including Mark Doty, Douglas Glover, Robin Hemley, Richard Jackson, Sydney Lea, Bret Lott, Sue William Silverman, David Wojahn, and Xu Xi, *Words Overflowed by Stars* gives you unprecedented access to a top literary education." "This comprehensive resource covers a wide variety of topics, including the creative process, titles, beginnings, voice and style, point of view, novel and short story structure, and the role of dreams and fantasy in fiction. It also includes explanation of the often-blurry borderline between fiction and creative nonfiction, the subgenres of creative



nonfiction, music and time in poetry, image patterning, "saying the unsayable," multiculturalism, the art of revision, and much more."--BOOK JACKET.

A Visitor Kills Me Dream of Things Nidali, the rebellious daughter of an Egyptian-Greek mother and a Palestinian father, narrates the story of her childhood in Kuwait, her teenage years in Egypt (to where she and her family fled the 1990 Iraqi invasion), and her family's last flight to Texas. Nidali mixes humor with a sharp, loving portrait of an eccentric middle-class family, and this perspective keeps her buoyant through the hardships she encounters: the humiliation of going through a checkpoint on a visit to her father's home in the West Bank; the fights with

her father, who wants her to become a famous professor and stay away from boys; the end of her childhood as Iraq invades Kuwait on her thirteenth birthday; and the scare she gives her family when she runs away from home. Funny, charming, and heartbreaking, A Map of Home is the kind of book Tristram Shandy or Huck Finn would have narrated had they been born Egyptian-Palestinian and female in the 1970s.

*A Bundle of Careful Compromises*  
Whitepoint Press

Today's Latino poetry scene is incredibly vibrant. With original interviews, this is the first meditation on the thematic features of such poetry. Looking at how Julia Alvarez, Rhina Espaillat, Rafael Campo, and C. Dale Young use structures such as meter, rhyme, and

line break, this study identifies a poetics of formalist Latino poetry.

A History of Irish Women's Poetry U of Nebraska Press

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, Susan Blackwell Ramsey's *A Mind Like This* is a work of humor and wit, unexpectedly delightful and full of surprises as it reflects on the oddness of everyday life, the natural world, literary history, popular culture, and more. Everything is fair game for Ramsey, who finds poetry in love and sickness and life, of course, but also in knitting and unreliable bladders and the peculiar name of Kalamazoo. Neruda makes an appearance, as do Eric Clapton and Brahms, Leonard and Virginia Woolf, and Jimmy Stewart. Whether observing the pickled heads of

Peter the Great's offenders, wondering "How to Seduce Henry David Thoreau," becoming the insecure voice of Kalamazoo, or puzzling over the intricacies of the mind that blocks a dear friend's birthday while preserving the name of Emily Dickinson's dog in perpetuity, Ramsey's collection is wise and funny, allusive and deeply felt. *Notre Dame Review* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

In *Mixed Company* Jenny Shank reveals moments of grace and connection between people of her hometown, Denver, through stories that contrast the city during its oil-bust era of economic troubles and court-ordered crosstown busing for racial desegregation with the burgeoning and gentrifying city of recent years. In "Casa del Rey," a cautious

pregnant woman must contend with her out-of-control and intrusive neighbor. In “Hurts,” a girls’ basketball team at a majority Black Denver high school clashes with a white mountain team. In “La Sexycana,” a bottom-feeding journalist ventures to a dance club to confront the young Latina woman she mentored as a teenager who then cut off all contact with her. “Lightest Lights Against Darkest Darks” follows a white middle schooler bused to a majority Black school who falls under the spell of her magnetic and racially ambiguous art teacher. In “Signing for Linemen,” a graduate student in medieval literature takes a job as a summer tutor for a college football team and ends up learning more than she expected about athletes, American Sign Language, and

herself. In “Local Honey,” middle-aged white parents bring their adopted Black teenage son to a Wu-Tang Clan concert in an attempt to bond with him. Characters find their initial perceptions and ideas overturned in these stories laced with humor, heart, and grit. Jenny Shank forges fiction out of the sparks that fly when diverse people encounter one another. Winner of The 2020 George Garrett Fiction Prize, selected by Joe Wilkins Fiction Winner of the 2022 Colorado Book Awards *May We Have That in Writing?* Vintage Guides prospective graduate students through the difficult process of researching, applying to, and choosing graduate schools in creative writing. This handbook includes special sections about Low-Residency writing programs,

PhD programs, publishing in literary journals, and workshop and teaching advice.

**The Angelgreen Sacrament** Springer Poetry. "Jaclyn Dwyer's *THE BRIDE AFLAME* explores--with imagination, earned wisdom, and searing wit--what it means to be a woman: to be a girl in her inescapable body; to be a lover and a wife; to be a daughter and then to raise them. These poems confront the worst horrors of womanhood--domestic violence, rape, the loss of a child--but they also revel in its possibilities. As Dwyer writes, 'I make and I am.' This is a mantra for mother and poet alike."--Maggie Smith "Girls, women, wives, daughters--Jaclyn Dwyer investigates what it is to be female in this moment in time. Her language is lush, words

cascading and undulating in images that paint a world in all its terrible beauty. But we have to look because fire illuminates as it burns, and Dwyer's women are on fire with being anorexics, zombies, someone who will stub a lit cigarette on her own hand. They are exes, brides, and finally mothers, creating a new body of flesh out of the old. A gorgeous debut."--Barbara Hamby "The poems in *THE BRIDE AFLAME* are fierce, tuned in equal measure to the sensual and the violent. In this smart, unforgiving, and at times savage book, the body takes center stage, demanding its pleasures, its pains, and its refusals. If damage is how we measure the beauty left behind, then Jaclyn Dwyer knows the world's tally better than anyone."--Rebecca Hazelton

**The Low-Residency MFA Handbook**

## Multilingual Matters

The Open Light: Poets from Notre Dame, 1991-2008 celebrates the distinction and diversity of poets associated with the university during these nearly two decades. This anthology is a companion volume to James Walton's earlier collection, *The Space Between: Poets from Notre Dame, 1950-1990*. The twenty-four poets represented in *The Open Light* range from National Endowment for the Arts Award-winner Beth Ann Fennelly, who received her undergraduate degree from Notre Dame, to the Nobel Prize nominee Bei Dao, who taught as a visiting professor at Notre Dame between 2005 and 2007. All have been students at Notre Dame, members of the faculty, or both. Each has

published at least one volume of poetry. As evidenced by the founding of Notre Dame's Creative Writing Program in 1991, creative writing has thrived over the years and grown more essential to the intellectual identity and artistic ambitions of the university. Notre Dame's M.F.A. graduates, who have published poetry collections and fiction with both commercial publishers and independent presses, have garnered considerable praise from the literary establishment. In the preface to this anthology, Orlando Ricardo Menes presents a brief historical account of poetry at Notre Dame since 1991, emphasizing the remarkable range of talent and accomplishment of its poets, and the establishment of both *The Notre Dame Review* and the Ernest Sandeen

Poetry Prize. The plethora of voices included in this collection and the poems themselves provide a rich and vibrant legacy of poetry at Notre Dame.

Contributors: Francisco Aragón, Robert Archambeau, Bei Dao, Karni Pal Bhati, Kimberly M. Blaeser, Jenny Bouilly, Jacque Vaught Brogan, Stacy Cartledge, Michael Coffey, Seamus Deane, Joe Francis Doerr, Kevin Ducey, Cornelius Eady, Beth Ann Fennelly, Kevin Hart, Mary Kathleen Hawley, Joyelle McSweeney, Orlando Ricardo Menes, Thomas O'Grady, John Phillip Santos, Michael Smith, Anthony Walton, Henry Weinfield, and John Wilkinson.

Houghton Mifflin

See You In the Morning is a book about three 17-year-olds, Rosie, John, and the narrator, who take care of each other

one summer in a small Midwestern town. Rosie is a mystic romantic whose dad earned so much money writing screenplays that she doesn't need an after-school job. John, Rosie's ex, works at the roller rink in a rabbit costume and takes care of his mom when she's tired after a day cutting hair. The narrator works at a bookstore and sometimes focuses so hard on their reading that they see polka dots take over the room. John is the narrator's best and oldest friend, so now the two of them must be in love, right? Because if they aren't, why stay in town? But if they aren't, who else will ever understand? What is love and how does it work? See You In the Morning happens at diners and house shows, in paragraph-shaped poems, and the narrator's angry, tender, colorful

voice.

**The Distance Between Us** The Creative Writing MFA Handbook Nautilus Book Award Silver Winner. Eric Hoffer Award Grand Prize Short List. Midwest Book Award Finalist/Reference. "Witty, audacious and wise." Robin Metz, Winner of the Rainer Maria Rilke International Poetry Award. "This should be on every writer's bookshelf." Randy Richardson, President, Chicago Writers Association. By exploring the relationships between the writer and love, grief, place, family, race and violence, Rember helps writers dive deep into their own writing. "A big part of writing involves grappling with the terrors and discouragements that come

when you have writing skills but can't project yourself or your work into the future," says Rember. "My hope is that MFA in a Box will help writers balance the despair of writing with the joy of writing. It's a book designed to help you to find the courage to put truth into words and to understand that writing is a life-and-death endeavor -- but that nothing about a life-and-death endeavor keeps it from being laugh-out-loud funny."

Savage Tongues Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

The Distance between Us celebrates a set of unlovely, unexamined lives, portraying memorable voices full of the flavor of disappointment and hope.

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