



PRESS RELEASE

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2023 PRESS 53 AWARD FOR SHORT FICTION NAMES ALABAMA WRITER RUNNER-UP AND OFFERS PUBLICATION

Winston-Salem, NC, April 27, 2023—Garrett Ashley of Auburn, Alabama, and teacher of creative writing at Tuskegee University, has been named runner-up for the 2023 Press 53 Award for Short Fiction for his story collection *My Grandfather Ran Off to the Woods*. This award-winning collection of stories will be published by Press 53 on May 3, 2024. Upon publication, Ashley will receive a \$500 advance and 53 copies of his book.

Garrett Ashley lived most of his life in Mississippi, and at the beginning of the pandemic finished his Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers. His work has appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *The Normal School*, *Sonora Review*, *Analog SF&F*, *DIAGRAM*, *Reed Magazine*, and *Sequestrum*, among other places. His story collection, *Before the Snakes Came*, was recently a finalist for the 2022 Moon City Press Short Fiction Award.

Press 53 short fiction editor Claire V. Foxx judged the competition in a blind read (authors' names withheld) that drew 248 entries from writers in 43 states and the District of Columbia. Foxx said of Ashley's story collection, "The author of *My Grandfather Ran Off to the Woods* has an ear for language and an eye for the strangely beautiful as great science fiction writers do. Without relying on tropes or gimmicks of genre writing, *My Grandfather Ran Off to the Woods* delivers reincarnation, zombification, and genetic modification with a piercing self-awareness that invites us both to chuckle at the absurd and to notice, in all seriousness, that what we might call 'fantasy' often tells the truest story."

Foxx also selected a winner, *The Ill-Fitting Skin* by Shannon Robinson of Baltimore, Maryland, and five finalists: *The Existence of the Opposite* by Robert Shuster of Bedford, New York; *Invisibilia* by Tom Howard of Arlington, Virginia; *Shark Patrol* by Tim Fitts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *The Church of Divine Electricity* by Emily Mitchell of Silver Spring, Maryland; and *House of Horrors* by Robert Long Foreman of Kansas City, Missouri.

Press 53 books are distributed worldwide by Ingram Books and its partners. Since October 2005, Press 53 has been finding and sharing remarkable voices through collections of poetry and short fiction. Press 53 has published more than 270 titles by authors in 37 states. Visit their website at www.Press53.com