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“Beth Mayer’s stories unflinchingly explore the tough and the tender sides of family life as well as offering us a window into the lives of those we often prefer not to notice when we pass them in our neighborhoods. **I was moved by the deep emotional truths in *We Will Tell You Otherwise*, and the slyly ironic and often sardonic wit of these stories kept me smiling all the way through. What a lovely collection of stories this is!**”

—David Haynes, Author of *A Star in the Face of the Sky*

Winner of the Hudson Prize

WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE

by **Beth Mayer**

Beth Mayer’s debut short story collection, *WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE* (August 20 publication date), is winner of The Hudson Prize, offered by Black Lawrence Press. It’s easy to see why. Her stories are surprising, sometimes dark, inventive, and deep. From the book collector who does not read to the mesmerizing Cha Cha McGee, a young girl who defines indomitable, Mayer writes of everyday people overcoming difficulty, navigating awkward family situations, or facing changes that threaten (or promise) to reshape them. But she also writes from the perspective of a ghost and tells a riveting tale about the angel of death. No story is the same, but each story shares her accomplished prose as well as her keen perception of human failings and hopes, making *WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE* a commanding and powerful debut.

BETH MAYER’S short story collection *WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE* won the 2017 Hudson Prize with Black Lawrence Press (forthcoming August 2019). Her fiction has appeared in *The Threepenny Review*, *The Sun Magazine*, and *The Midway Review*. She was a fiction finalist for *The Missouri Review*’s Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Prize (2016), her work recognized among “Other Distinguished Stories” by *Best American Mystery Stories* (2010), and

her stories anthologized in both *American Fiction* (New Rivers) and *New Stories from the Midwest* (Ohio University). Mayer was a Loft Mentor Series Winner in Fiction (2015-16) and holds an MFA in creative writing from Hamline University. She currently teaches English at Century College in Minnesota, where she lives with her family and impossibly faithful dog. Visit her online at <https://bethmayer.com/>

[Black Lawrence Press](https://bethmayer.com/) is an independent publisher of contemporary poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. They also publish the occasional translation from German. Their books are distributed nationally through Small Press Distribution to Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and various brick and mortar retailers. Black Lawrence Press also makes their titles available through its website and at various conferences and book fairs. Through their annual contests and open reading periods, the press seeks innovative, electrifying, and thoroughly intoxicating manuscripts that ensnare themselves in their hearts and minds and won't let go.

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MORE PRAISE FOR
WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE

“What does Beth Mayer’s intimate collection of short stories want to tell us? That the dead have much to teach the living, that madness can point the way to clarity, that the burn of departing never cools, that inside abandonment can be redemption. Mayer’s prose rattles like bones, proving that no matter how far you live in the margins, you can’t escape the telling.”—**Desiree Cooper, Author of *Know the Mother***

“The stories in Beth Mayer’s *We Will Tell You Otherwise* are indelible treasures, full of poignancy and pathos. Mayer is the best kind of writer—one who doles out her wisdom with humor, who mines the intricacies of love, friendship, and family effortlessly.”
—**John Jodzio, Author of *Knockout***

RE: WE WILL TELL YOU OTHERWISE

By Beth Mayer

Black Lawrence Press

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