

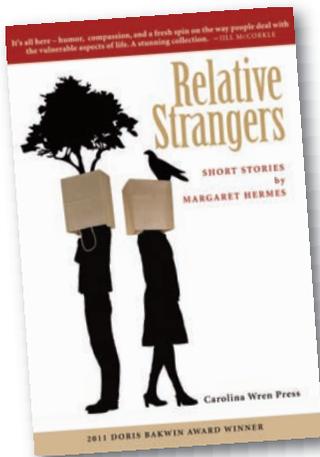
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Carolina Wren Press announces the publication of:

Relative Strangers

by Margaret Hermes



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\$15.95 paperback,
180 pp.

MARGARET HERMES grew up in Chicago and lives in Saint Louis. In addition to short stories and essays that have appeared in journals such as *The Missouri*

Review, *New Millennium*, and *The Literary Review* and in anthologies such as *20 Over 40* and *Under the Arch*, her published and performed work includes a novel, *The Phoenix Nest*, and a stage adaptation of an Oscar Wilde fable. When not writing, she concentrates her energies on environmental issues.



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“RELATIVE STRANGERS IS A STUNNING COLLECTION of stories. Every single story is vivid and memorable, and yet the collective thematic effect is powerful. So many of these characters are strangers within their own families and their own lives – people thought to be dead are resurrected and another character’s survival is akin to death. It’s all here – change, loss, alienation. But so is humor and compassion and a fresh spin on the way people deal with the most vulnerable aspects of life. The range in vision is also compelling as we view – in one story – the adult world through the eyes of an adolescent who senses in his mother’s tremor ‘an earthquake unsettling my world’ and then, just as easily, view life from the other end of the spectrum as characters look back on the change and loss and choices that shaped everything in life that followed them. In Hermes’ writing, this movement between innocence and experience is constant as is the weighing of love against passion and lust. This is a moving and powerful collection.”
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