



NEW RELEASE

The Drifts

a novel by Thom Vernon

An unhappily expectant mom, a man in love with a cow, a woman who looks like a refrigerator and a transsexual: just another small town in the middle of a blizzard.

Night is falling, and so is the snow. As the blizzard buries the ground, it uncovers the resentments, hopes and aches of a small town in northeastern Arkansas, where, like in any Southern small town, there are unwanted pregnancies to agonize over, surgeries to be paid for and love to be made.

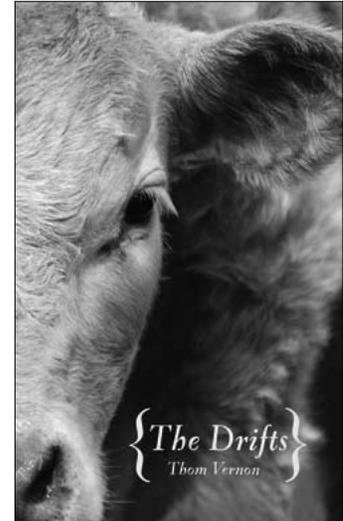
Julie's two daughters have just run off to Hollywood to be famous when she suddenly finds herself, at forty-six, unexpectedly expectant. She's not sure she can bear to be a mother again. And her husband, Charlie, won't come home to talk it over with her.

Charlie wants another child more than anything, but he doesn't know how to deal with Julie. His affair with Wilson, his best friend, is over, but he's found a different and unusual kind of intimacy – a deep love for a calf he's rescued from slaughter.

Wilson works in the Singer factory that keeps the town alive. She wants more than anything to be loved, but she knows that Charlie wasn't the way to get there. She's in love with Dol.

Dol is a transsexual, a divorced father of two children, who can't afford the transition that would make his body make sense – although the doctors visiting from Atlanta might change that.

Their very different voices converge as the blizzard gathers force, their stories violently mapping in the snow the ways that memory, gender, and history carve themselves upon our bodies. *The Drifts* is dexterously told, a cacophony of four affecting voices melding into one exquisite chord.



SPRING EVENTS

April 24

Montreal
Blue Metropolis Festival
Delta Centre-Ville
(777 University Street)

April 28

Toronto
Revival
(783 College Street)

May 18

London
London Public Library
(251 Dundas Street)

June 26

Toronto
Proud Voices Readings
(Toronto PRIDE Festival)

TBD

Toronto
Pivot Reading Series
The Press Club
(850 Dundas Street West)



Praise for Thom Vernon:

'A real gasser. Very good, very good.' – Hubert Selby, Jr.

'A magical book, *The Drifts* unfolds with grace and style, like a delicious Baroque fugue, like a curious delicacy made of swirling, contrapuntal salts and sweets. Ambitious and yet always intimate, always mindful of its characters' interiors, *The Drifts* reminds us why we read novels in the first place – to hear voices in our heads. Voices that sing and spit, hum and rage, luxuriate and curse in equal, and vital, measure.' – RM Vaughan



THOM VERNON has worked in film, television and theatre since 1989, including appearances on *Seinfeld*, *General Hospital* and *The Fugitive*. He has been the Actors' Gang Youth Education Program director, and has worked extensively with at-risk people, including as an arts educator at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People. His 'Frank and Mary' stories have been produced at the Los Angeles Improv, and his screenplays and fiction have placed in various competitions, including Paramount's Chesterfield Writer's Film Project and the Open Door Contest. He hails from Michigan, but he and his partner live in exile in Toronto. This is his first novel.

The Drifts

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Novel

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