



News from

Red Hen Press

P.O. Box 40820 Pasadena, CA 91114 (626) 356-4760 fax: (626) 356-9974 redhen.org

Offspring

A novel by

Michael Quadland

On a wintry morning in 1974, Hank Preston makes a semen delivery to the New York Hospital Fertility Clinic. Running late, he takes the elevator rather than the stairway earmarked for such deliveries. A woman enters, the recipient of his semen, and a relationship develops that threatens to blow their already rocky lives to smithereens. To add to Hank's problems, his transgendered boss at the Strand Bookstore is in love with him. "But I'm straight," Hank protests. "And I'm a woman," Joey insists.

Offspring is a story of longings, thwarted dreams, and the search for truth—of family, and our fervent need to belong.

Offspring

A novel by Michael Quadland

ISBN: 978-1-59709-502-0

6.5 x 9.5; Tradepaper

224 pages

Price: US \$18.95

Release: March 1, 2012

Biographical note:

Michael Quadland grew up in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received a Master of Public Health degree from Yale University and a Ph.D. in psychology from New York University. In addition to his private psychotherapy practice, Quadland taught human sexuality at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York. The *Los Angeles Times* published his nonfiction article, "A Red X," about the death of a friend. Quadland's first novel, *That Was Then*, was published in 2007, and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. He now divides his time between New York City and northwest Connecticut.

Praise for *Offspring*:

"*Offspring*, Michael Quadland's second luminous novel, raises thorny questions about the true meaning of love. What could be comic—and, in fact, the novel produces many satisfying chortles—is full of complex pathos and frank humanity. An entertaining and enthralling jaunt."

—Cris Mazza, author of *Trickle-Down Timeline* and *Homeland*

"A story of coincidences and the connections that emerge from desire and biology, the novel indelibly marks the passions and failings of its characters."

—*Publishers Weekly*



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More Praise for *Offspring*:



“Michael Quadland’s terrific new novel, *Offspring*, tells the fascinating and emotionally riveting story of a sperm donor—a Vietnam vet tortured with unresolved feelings about his dead comrade—who accidentally meets the recipient of his semen, a Broadway actress with a loose hold on reality. Add a transgendered person seeking acceptance and romance to the mix, and you have an edgy, funny, yet poignant saga perfect for our times. The dialogue sparkles with wit and charm, as if Noel Coward and Christopher Isherwood collaborated to create quintessential, quirky Quadland prose—and the author’s empathy for his characters makes for a book that will touch your heart deeply, and stay in your mind for a long, long time.”

—Lynette Brasfield, author of *Nature Lessons: A Novel*

“*Offspring* is ultimately about a search for truth — not honesty in the moral sense, but the truth about ourselves, who we really are, what we believe in and where we fit in the world.”

—*Berskspires*

An excerpt from *Offspring*

“We donned our coats and closed the door behind us, stepping into the brittle morning. I dusted new snow off the pickup, a dry cold withering my nostrils. The brilliance that often follows a snowfall loomed all around. I took the suitcase from Maggie and set it behind the seat. She moved slowly around the truck, propping her hand along the fender, the hood, the other fender, and pulled herself into the cab. She set the muffins and the map down next to her and pulled the door closed. I looked back at the house glowing orange in the rising sunrise, the tufts of confetti that dotted the roof, our one-way footprints on the new wooden steps. We’d never spoken of Canada as an option, though of course I’d been thinking about it, deciding yes, deciding no, picturing myself walking alone down a deserted street. Where would I live? Who would give a damn about me?”

