



News from

Red Hen Press

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Bin Laden's Bald Spot

Short Stories by

Brian Doyle

Welcome to the peculiar and headlong world of Brian Doyle's fiction, where the odd is happening all the time, reported upon by characters of every sort and stripe. Swirling voices and skeins of story, laughter and rage, ferocious attention to detail and sweeping nuttiness, tears and chortling—these stories will remind readers of the late giant David Foster Wallace, in their straightforward accounts of anything-but-straightforward events; of modern short story pioneer Raymond Carver, a bit, in their blunt, unadorned dialogue; and of Julia Whitty, a bit, in their willingness to believe what is happening, even if it absolutely shouldn't be.

Funny, piercing, unique, memorable, this is a collection of stories readers will find nearly impossible to forget.

Bin Laden's Bald Spot

Short Stories by Brian Doyle

ISBN: 978-1-59709-915-8

5 x 8; Tradepaper

160 pages

Price: US \$17.95

Scheduled Release: October 1, 2011

Biographical note:

Brian Doyle is the editor of *Portland Magazine* at the University of Portland, in Oregon—the best university magazine in America, according to *Newsweek*, and “the best spiritual magazine in the country,” according to Annie Dillard.

Doyle is the author of ten previous books: five collections of essays, two nonfiction books, two collections of short prose, and the sprawling novel *Mink River*, which *Publisher's Weekly* called a “original, postmodern, shimmering tapestry of smalltown life.”

Doyle is a four-time finalist for the Oregon Book Award, and his essays have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Orion*, *The American Scholar*, and in newspapers and magazines around the world. His essays have also been reprinted in the annual *Best American Essays*, *Best American Science & Nature Writing*, and *Best American Spiritual Writing* anthologies. Among various honors for his work are a Catholic Book Award, two Pushcart Prizes, and a 2008 Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives near Portland, Oregon with his wife and children. *Bin Laden's Bald Spot* (Red Hen Press, 2011), is his latest book.

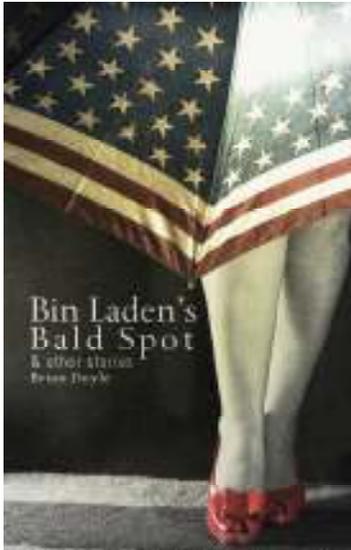
Praise for *Bin Laden's Bald Spot*:

"To read Brian Doyle is to apprehend, all at once, the force that drives Mark Twain, and Walt Whitman, and James Joyce, and Emily Dickinson, and Francis of Assisi, and Jonah under his gourd. Brian Doyle is an extraordinary writer whose tales will endure. The sublime 'Waking the Bishop' is going to inhabit American anthologies forever and ever."

—Cynthia Ozick



More Praise for Brian Doyle:



“Some people can write. Some people can feel. Brian Doyle, born with a silver tongue and a big heart, is among the lucky few who can do both.”

—Anne Fadiman

“What I like about Brian Doyle’s writing is that it’s real – it’s got mud and blood and tears but it’s also got earthly angels who teach him to grasp on to each small epiphany as it opens before him.”

—Martin Flanagan

“No one writes prose with the verve and honesty, the gusto and wit of Brian Doyle. Read *Leaping* and I know you’ll agree—Brian Doyle is a superb, a sublime, artist of the written word.”

—Pattiann Rogers

From “Bin Laden's Bald Spot”

“The other men speak to me animatedly when Himself is out of earshot getting made up for his endless film productions, and it is a great surprise to me how many of them think that Van Johnson was never more than a decent supporting player, no matter what Osama thinks, and, as they say quietly, the fact is that liking the way a guy wears *his* hair because you are paranoid about *your* hair does *not* make the guy the greatest actor who ever lived, no matter *how* vehemently you hold the opinion or think yourself a visionary in cultural or religious or geopolitical matters, because the greatest actor who ever lived is inarguably Cary Grant, although one of the men holds out adamantly for Gregory Peck, which sends the rest of them into hysterics.”





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