



Greetings from Below (Mary Mccarthy Prize in Short Fiction)

David Philip Mullins

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Winner of the Mary McCarthy Prize in short fiction, selected by David Means.

Winner of the University of Nevada's Silver Pen Award.

"Mullins writes about these journeys, and about sex and the desert, with a wonderful, edgy lucidity. *Greetings from Below* is a remarkable debut."—Margot Livesey

What would have become of Nick Adams if he'd been born along the ragged edges of a new American city, one with more churches per capita than any other, and twice the suicide rate? Meet Nick Danze, the main character of David Philip Mullins's vital debut collection, *Greetings from Below*. The opening story finds fourteen-year-old Nick and his pal Kilburg sitting in the Las Vegas desert, drinking whiskey from Kilburg's fake leg. It's the first of many shocks in Nick's sexual education, which begins with a kiss from Kilburg he calls "practice." In later stories, Nick hires a call girl, visits a swingers' club on Christmas Eve, obsesses over obese middle-aged women, and meets the love of his life, Annie, only he's not sure he loves her and he's compulsively unfaithful. Ashamed of his behavior, he stubbornly repeats it. And lurking behind it all is Vegas, with its gilded casinos, neon-tinted suburbs, and dingy, outer-ring strip clubs. In Nick's wounded honesty and queasy self-consciousness, Mullins awakens us to the perverse power of alienation and shame.

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From reader reviews:

Boris Hansen:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Greetings from Below (Mary Mccarthy Prize in Short Fiction), you could enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

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