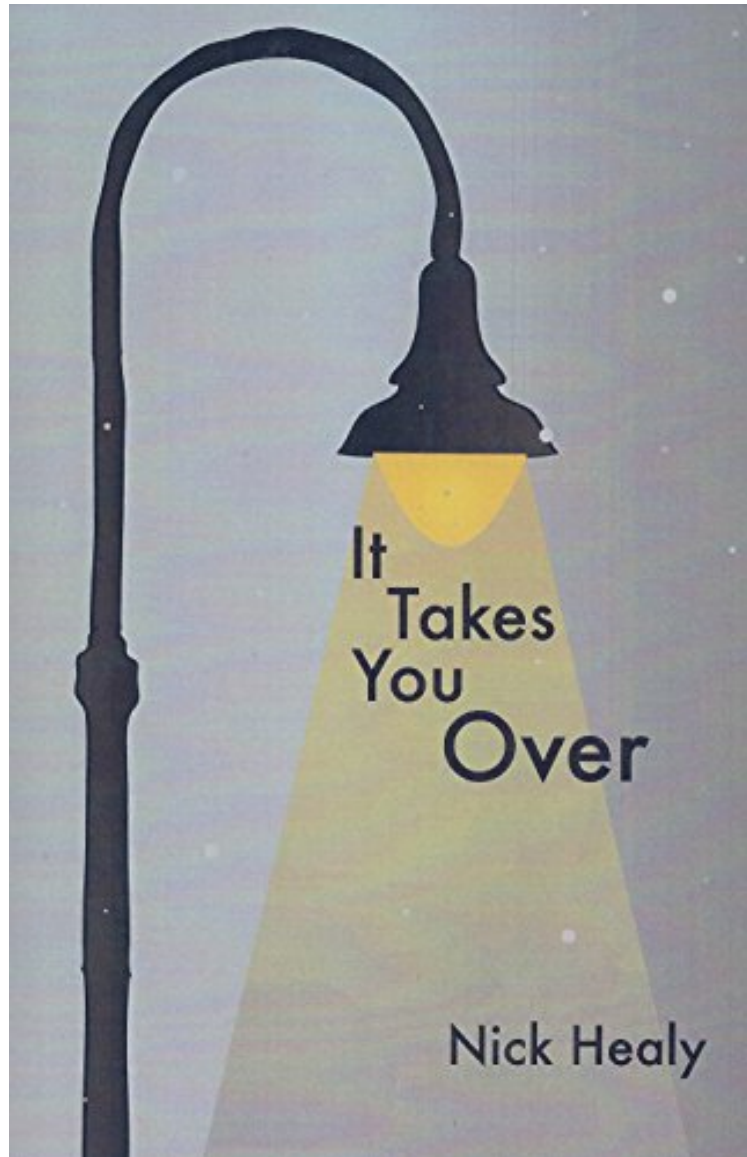


[PDF] It Takes You Over (Many Voices Project)

It Takes You Over (Many Voices Project)

Nick Healy

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Nick Healy : It Takes You Over (Many Voices Project) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised It Takes You Over (Many Voices Project):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Every story in this book is a small world to inhabitBy Martin StricklerThis collection of stories might have a regional touch. But beyond all the regional details Nick Healy is concerned with human things in a universal way that allows even readers from other regions, from other countries and continents to understand the depths, the tragedies, the warmth, the hope, the sadnesses of those very fine written

stories. Healy's art of writing definitely took me over. I can't help but revisit those stories from time to time, like you visit old friends. It is one of those story collections, one of those books you'll never forget. Every story in this book is a small world to inhabit for the reader. I'm glad that this collection got so many reviews. It deserves many readers. Join us and read this book.⁹ of 9 people found the following review helpful. This knocked my socks off

By Rachael T. HanelI spent a delightful few days in the different worlds Nick Healy has crafted in his debut short-story collection, *It Takes You Over*. In all of the stories, Healy dares to explore the hidden secrets housed beneath the surface of seemingly ordinary Midwesterners. The secrets range from a man's visit to a prostitute; a woman unraveling the mystery of her sister's tragic, short life; a Capitol staffer's affair with a co-worker; and a daughter hiding the truth about her father's dealings from the IRS. Sometimes the hidden world resides only in the narrator's mind: What if I had done things differently? How can I live up to someone else's expectations? Am I a good person? The stories strike me as so true. Everyone struggles with something, and Healy exposes those universal struggles that are in all of us. Healy's journalism background shines through in that it's clear he's an adept observer of the human condition. I can picture him quietly watching a stranger in a coffee shop and imagining the person's story in exquisite detail. He incorporates real-life people and events, such as railroad magnate James J. Hill and the Armistice Day blizzard of 1940s, into a couple of stories. Healy writes from different points of view: a young man, an elderly man, a grandmother, a suburban housewife. He's able to inhabit all personas with equal believability. Some of the stories moved me to tears. My heart broke when reading about the young uncle who tries the best he knows how to be a role model to his young, fatherless nephew. One line in "Squirt" really got me: "I lifted him up, put one hand under his tailbone, and launched him skyward the way I'd seen my brother do a hundred times in this very lake on days just like this but like we'd never have again." Many of the stories feature people just trying to do their best. You can't help but to root for them in all their goodness and faults. Even though a certain darkness pervades the characters' circumstances, there's hope, often in the form of young love, men and women exploring the exciting territory of new bodies. Minnesotans will delight at reading about familiar landmarks: St. Paul streets, small-town landscapes, the ubiquitous lake cabin. Precise descriptions capture the essence of Minnesota weather: "Cold air whooshed earthward, and the season seemed to change in a lone mighty gust." Healy sets the stories in places he knows well, but these are by no means uniquely Minnesotan stories. Short-story collections are infamously difficult to sell, especially for first-time authors. I've never understood this, as short stories have such a rich history in our culture and are easy to digest in this time-crunched world. When put together in a brilliant way as in *It Takes You Over*, I wonder why more publishers do not rush to put out such fine pieces of writing. Thank goodness Healy finally got his chance. Healy is like one of his characters--just trying to do his best. But while some of his characters fall short in that effort, Healy never does. If his best is yet to come, readers are in for a real treat.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. *It Takes You Over* by Nick Healy

By JessJoyJaspNick Healy's collection of short stories in, *It Takes You Over*, is a compilation of life and death and everything in between. Every main character seems to be missing something substantial in their lives in the past and present. This leaves the character's lingering with an uncertain future which Healy makes sure to leave open ended. The setting of every story is based in Minnesota so if you are a Midwesterner you may recognize many of the Minnesota references layered throughout Healy's book. The topics of the stories include troubles with divorce, fraud, cheating, jokes taken the wrong way, and every day happenings in which readers can easily cling to and hope the main character resolves. My disclaimer for this review is: I do not claim to be a short story connoisseur. This is Healy's first published book of short stories so props to him for publishing his work. Healy's collection of stories did not overwhelm me as I read them. His main characters are fairly simple with their pasts ruling their present and future. Realistic is a word I would use to describe Healy's stories. I do not know anyone who can say they do not think about their pasts at all when contemplating their present or future. Sadness lingers throughout the stories, which in part is due to the characters' built up regret. I personally did not get caught up in each story and they did not pluck my creative writing heart strings. I found myself thirsting for more complication and thirsting for unpredictability.

Fiction. An elderly man caught with a hooker, a daughter outsmarting the IRS

Nick Healy's stories are about rough relationships and the insular lifestyle of small towns, proving that "Minnesota Nice" isn't all the state contains.

About the Author Readers were introduced to Nick Healy's fiction when "And Other Delights" was chosen for the 2005 Speakeasy Prize from The Loft Literary Center/Speakeasy magazine. Since then Healy's stories have found an audience in the Midwest and across the country. His work has appeared in magazines including *North American*, *Broken Bridge*, *Water~Stone*, *Minnesota Monthly*, *Blueroad*, and *The Robert Olen Butler Prize Stories* (Del Sol Press), *Tartts Four: Incisive Fiction* (Livingston Press), and *Blink Again: Sudden Fiction* from the Upper Midwest (Spout Press). *IT TAKES YOU OVER*, Healy's first collection of short stories and New Rivers Press' 125th Many Voices Project award winner, was written with the support of an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and a McKnight Individual Artist Grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. A native of St. Paul, Healy now lives in Mankato, Minnesota, with his wife Helen, and their two children.