

First Kings

and other stories

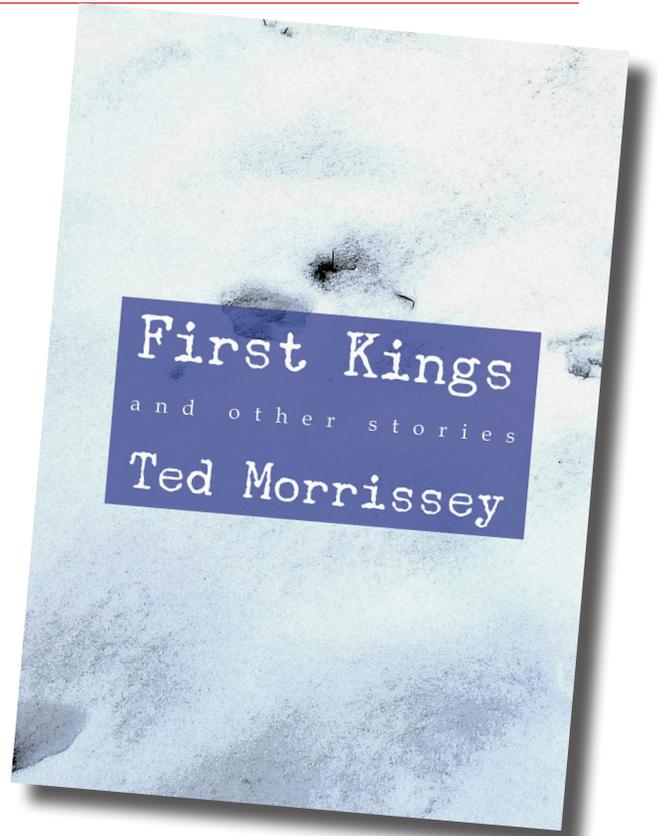
Ted Morrissey

It's 1907.

A snowstorm rages.

But some must venture out.

A young girl desperately seeks help for her pregnant mother. A farmer hunts the creature that killed one of his animals. An undertaker feels the impatience of the dead who call to him. Lives entangle while a bitter and merciless storm threatens all. These stories work together as a stand-alone novella, and also represent a longer work in progress. The title story, "First Kings," was published by the prestigious *North American Review* and reprinted by *Sequestrum*. It was also nominated for a Pushcart Prize. "Hosea" was originally brought out by *Belle Ombre*. The collection is anchored by "The Widow's Son." As suggested by their titles, the pieces play with biblical themes, narratives, and images.



'Powerful literary fiction. I read all three stories in one sitting, perfect winter tales. "First Kings" had me mesmerized.'

— Ellyn Bache,
author of *Family Ties*

The work in progress represented by *First Kings and Other Stories* is a prequel to the author's award-winning novel *Crowsong for the Stricken*. Its setting has become his Yoknapatawpha County.

Fiction | Literature

ISBN 9781005175924 (Smashwords; \$2.99)

Formats: epub, mobi, pdf, lrf, pdb, text, html

ASIN B08QR5YC9J (Kindle \$2.99)

Published December 15, 2020

Also available online

Wordrunner eChapbooks • echapbook.com



TED MORRISSEY'S novels include *Mrs Saville* (Manhattan Book Award) and *Crowsong for the Stricken* (International Book Award and American Fiction Award). His novel excerpts, short stories, poems, essays and reviews have appeared in more than eighty

publications, among them *North American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, and *Glimmer Train Stories*.

His style has been compared to Ray Bradbury and Shirley Jackson (*Flyleaf Journal*) and

a "postmodernist emulating Henry James . . . an intriguing combination" (*Chicago Book Review*). He lives near Springfield, Illinois.

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