

# First Kings

and other stories

Ted Morrissey

'From the outset, this captivating narrative reels you in with exquisite historical literary feel ... Morrissey sets a high standard.'

— DK Marley,

The Historical Fiction Company

5/5 stars — Highly Recommended

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.

Fiction | Literature

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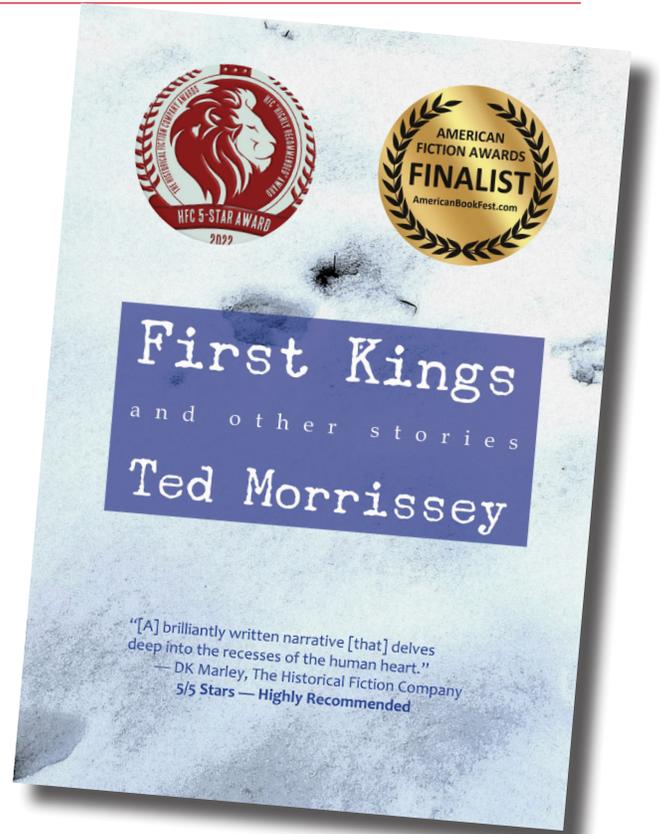
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'Powerful literary fiction. I read all three stories in one sitting, perfect winter tales. "First Kings" had me mesmerized.'

— 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.



TED MORRISSEY'S novels include *The Artist Spoke* (Maincrest Media Award), *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 some 100 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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