None of the artists display reticence or mystery; rather, philosophy, politics, narcissism, and even some genuine candidness are evident. Thornton does not overly editorialize, allowing the artists to speak for themselves, and the results are sometimes thought-provoking, sometimes maddening, but always entertaining.

—Michael Bristow, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

In her previous book, Seven Days in the Art World, Thornton examined the institutions that form the channels through which contemporary art find its way to the public. In 33 Artists in 3 Acts, she converses with some of today’s most high-profile artists, including Ai Weiwei, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, and Damien Hirst. None of the artists offers a view of mystery or rhetoric, rather, philosophy, politics, narcissism, and even some genuine candidness are evident. Thornton does not overly editorialize, allowing the artists to speak for themselves, and the results are sometimes thought-provoking, sometimes maddening, but always entertaining.

—Michael Bristow, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

Rea Carlisle inherited a house from an uncle she never knew, In it was a locked room, and when she forced open the door what she found terrified her—a book detailing the murders of a variety of people over a period of many years. After attempts to investigate were thwarted by her father, Rea reached out to the only policeman she knew, disgraced inspector Jack Lennon. When Lennon heard her story, the number one suspect in her murder. What follows is a harrowing investigation that pulls down Rea’s father, a local politician with ties to the IRA—ties that lead directly to a serial killer who will keep killing until he gets what he wants.

—Janice Hunsche, Kaleidosaurus Books, Metamora, IN

Letizia Acosta, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

For the intimate knowledge of place that a transient society can just searing sting. An important book.

—Chris Crawley, That Bookstore in Blytheville, Blytheville, AR

In this time of many memoirs, this one stands out for the intimate knowledge of place that a transient society can just

—Sarah Goddin, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC

As the creator of a mail-based role-playing game called Tracce Italian, Sean is the narrator of Wolf in White Van has had an isolated existence since he was disfigured at the age of 17. As the creator of a mail-based role-playing game called Tracce Italian, Sean is the narrator of Wolf in White Van has had an isolated existence since he was disfigured at the age of 17.

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

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A collection of the best American short stories of the year, The Best American Short Stories 2016 is a compendium of some of the finest contemporary short fiction being written today. Contributors offer their most brilliant—and most beautiful—work.

—Andrea Jones, The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT

Crummey takes readers into the heart of the insular fishing community of Chance Cove, Sweetland Island, Newfoundland, Sixty-eight-year-old Moses Sweetland’s family founded the town, and he is the only holdout when the government offers the residents a generous cash settlement to relocate to the mainland, that is effective only if everyone signs on. Told in sparse, beautiful prose, this is a requiem for the intimate knowledge of place that a transient society can just barely remember.

—Sarah Goddin, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC