

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS



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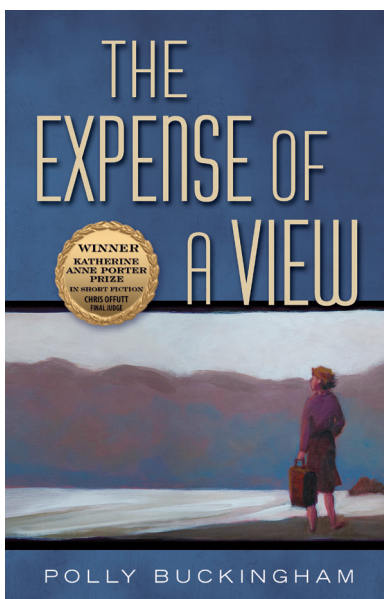
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BUCKINGHAM WINS KATHERINE ANNE PORTER PRIZE IN SHORT FICTION

University of North Texas Press announces the November 15, 2016 publication of *The Expense of a View* by Spokane writer Polly Buckingham, winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction.

The stories in *The Expense of a View* explore the psyches of characters under extreme duress. In the title story, a woman who has moved across the country in an attempt to leave her past behind dumps an empty suitcase into the Columbia River over and over again. In another story, a woman who wakes up mornings only to discover she's been shooting heroin in a night trance, meets her doppelganger on a rainy Oregon beach. Most of the characters are displaced and disturbed; they suffer from dissociative disorders, denial, and delusions. The settings—Florida, eastern Washington, Seattle, and the Oregon coast—mirror their lunacies. While refusing to look at what's right in front of themselves might destroy them, it's equally likely to be just what they need.

Judge Chris Offutt, final judge of the competition, said of the collection, "*The Expense of a View* is a carefully rendered examination of memory, loss, and sadness. The emotional reality of the characters is riveting and stayed with me long after finishing each story. These are the people we see every day, strangers suffering, ones we are too busy to worry about, that we ignore. The stories in *The Expense of a View* are reminders that everyone is important."



More Praise for *The Expense of a View*

"One of the most compelling collections I've read in years. Every story is filled with luminous insights. Every. Single. One. I scribbled down lines and taped them to my fridge. The characters are so finely etched they lifted from the page. Outstanding."—Debra Magpie, author of *Perma Red*

**POLLY BUCKINGHAM** teaches at Eastern Washington University. She is founding editor of StringTown Press and Associate Director of EWU's Willow Springs Books. Author of *A Year of Silence* (Jeanne Leiby Memorial Chapbook Award 2014), her poetry and short stories have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Threepenny Review*, and elsewhere. She lives in Spokane.

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Collection of Short Fiction

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Intended audience: General readers of fiction and short stories.