



A FALL 2019 RELEASE

Time for Bed

Stories

WENDY RAWLINGS

Bed is where we sleep and dream, where we make love and give ourselves nightmares. The thirteen stories in Wendy Rawlings's *Time for Bed* traverse the complicated terrain of bedtime activity, from adulterous couplings to nightmares that come to life, in terms that can feel lurid, unsettling, or disturbingly funny. A college student struggles with her mother leaving her father for a "cafeteria lady" at her high school. A woman loses her only daughter in a mass school shooting and goes on a road trip to buy a custom coffin, then decides to take a side trip to NRA headquarters. A daughter decides she should be born again—literally. Social, cultural, and familial disruption haunts these characters in their waking lives as they look to grab something or someone for stability.

A collection of comic stories that confront difficult and tragic events, *Time for Bed* crafts dreamscapes and bizarre encounters into bedtime stories for adults.

WENDY RAWLINGS is the author of *Come Back Irish*, winner of the 2000 Sandstone Prize for Short Fiction, and *The Agnostics*, winner of the Michigan Literary Fiction Award. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Kenyon Review*, the *Cincinnati Review*, *Tin House*, *Creative Nonfiction* and elsewhere. She is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the MacDowell Colony, and Yaddo. She teaches creative writing at the University of Alabama.

"Rawlings writes with vivid sensuousness and a palpable sense of purpose in throwing curveballs at her familiar characters. The result is a probing investigation into the unbearable lovelessness of modern life, and an attendant search for certainty."

—PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

"[Rawlings's] characters are so finely engraved and their passions so recognizable, the river of their daily lives runs so broad and deep, in the end we feel not that we have merely read about them but that we have lived with them, side by side."

—SIGRID NUNEZ, author of *THE FRIEND*, winner of the 2018 National Book Prize in Fiction

"Wendy Rawlings's *Time for Bed* is snappy, hilarious, bracing reading. She's a master storyteller who's thought long and hard about the possibilities of the form. This a long-overdue collection from one of my favorite writers."

—JESS ROW, author of *YOUR FACE IN MINE*



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