

THE STROPHES OF JOB

TED MORRISSEY

It's 1907, and a terrible snow storm rages across the midwest, burying a rural community but also revealing its citizens' closely guarded secrets. Two farm families — the Johnsons and the Fries — struggle while their women fight to give birth during the storm. The only midwife in the county must decide which mother and which baby to help, if she is able to make it through the deepening snow at all. The difficult and dangerous births force a host of people to risk going out in the storm, which has turned the familiar countryside into a strange and confusing landscape. Meanwhile, the snow storm has emboldened a band of coyotes that normally stays close to the mysterious and forbidding Hollis Woods, where thirty years before the Hollis children disappeared one by one without a trace. Their ghosts haunt the woods still, say locals. But it seems everyone has a past that haunts them, and the relentless storm provides the perfect canvas for painting memories and images best left forgotten. *The Strophes of Job* is a prequel to the multi-award-winning *Crowsong for the Stricken*, a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Indie Book of 2017 ("strange and beautiful," starred review). The paperback edition includes bonus material: the story "Sheol"; an Afterword by the author; and an interview with the author by Aswin Pransath and Augustine George.

Fiction | Literature

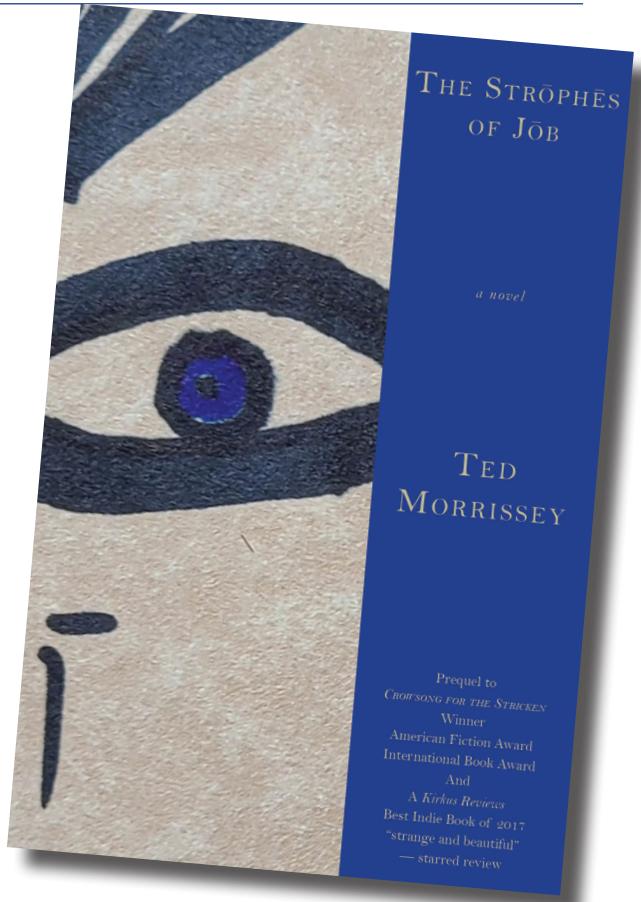
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TED MORRISSEY's most recent novels are *The Artist Spoke* (Maincrest Media Award), *Mrs Saville* (Manhattan Book Award) and *Crowsong for the Stricken* (International Book Award and American Fiction Award). *Delta of Cassiopeia: Collected Stories and Sonnets* (Maincrest Media Award) was released in 2023. His novel ex-

cerpts, short stories, poems, critical articles, reviews and translations have appeared in more than 120 publications, among them *North American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, and *Glimmer Train Stories*.

His style has been compared to Ray Bradbury, Shirley



'[The] Faulkneresque stream-of-consciousness style is hypnotic . . . It's a serious literary achievement . . . a notable work from a singular talent.' — *Bluelink Review*

'Morrissey's lyrical prose . . . captures the textures and cosmologies of this small, hard world.' — *Kirkus Reviews*, recommended with accolades

'[A] terrifying and uncanny novel.' — Ben Linder, *Foreword Reviews*

Jackson (*Flyleaf Journal*), Robert Olen Butler, Alison Lurie (*Bluelink Review*), Harper Lee, Truman Capote (*The Book Review*), and a "postmodernist emulating Henry James . . . an intriguing combination" (*Chicago Book Review*).

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