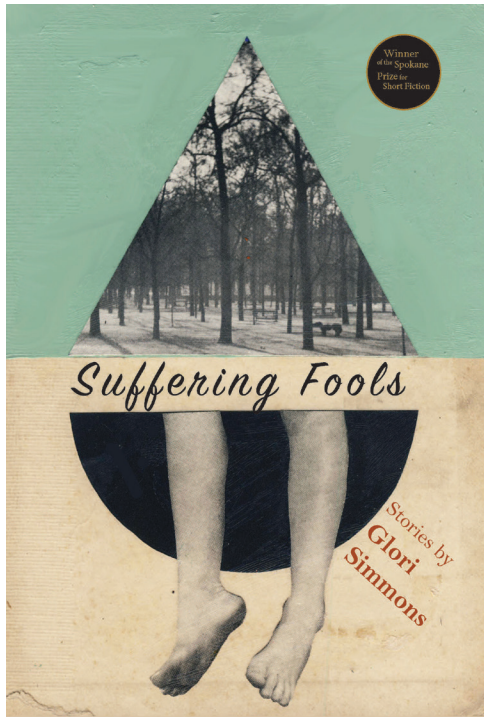


Willow Springs Books is proud to present
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Suffering Fools

by Glori Simmons

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A woman running a halfway house for paroled sexual predators is left wondering if her favorite has committed his most unthinkable crime yet. A groundskeeper who has just discovered that his ex is pregnant digs up an infant's tombstone inscribed with his own name. A traumatic traffic collision sends an aging couple back into their decades long marriage. Whether it be a dying man spying on two teenage lovers or a new mother running from her colicky infant, the nine stories in *Suffering Fools* spring from the dark corners of our psyches, revealing the fears and contradictions that give shape to unconditional love.



“What a gritty and brave world author Glori Simmons has created in *Suffering Fools*. This Pandora's box of stories are chockablock with cheaters and deviants, colicky babies and mistaken parents, halfway houses and crime scenes, all of it beautifully balanced by a delicate understanding of love, 'fluttering inside like a moth at a screendoor...' ”

—Sharma Shields, Judge of the Spokane Prize for Short Fiction

“To read Glori Simmons' stories is to recognize ourselves at our most flawed and best intended, at our most heartbreakingly human...”

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“In Glori Simmons' brave, fiercely imagined stories the nature of grace comingles with a gravity almost too terrible to bear. Her prose is beautiful and precise, her people unwieldy, boldly rendered, and freighted by histories that run the pass like locomotives, brakeless, carrying humanity on the downgrade as if hungry and afire. ”

—Shann Ray, American Book Award winning author of *Balefire* and *American Copper*

“In *Suffering Fools*, Glori Simmons peels back the superficial layers of marital and familial bonds to expose the strange and astounding lengths we go to to discover ourselves inside another...These potent, unflinching stories reveal not only the terror of true intimacy, but the thrill of struggling past this fear in our unquenchable desire to love each other. ”

—Val Breliniski, author of *The Girl Who Slept with God*

Glori Simmons is the author of *Graft*, poems (Truman State University Press) and a former Stegner Fellow in fiction. She currently lives in Oakland, California and is the director of the Thacher Gallery at the University of San Francisco.



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