

Furman Magazine

Volume 63
Issue 1 *Spring 2020*

Article 32

4-1-2020

Shelf Life

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2020) "Shelf Life," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 63 : Iss. 1 , Article 32.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol63/iss1/32>

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SHELF LIFE

*Bittersweet humor, a mischievous cow
and coming of age in the South*

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RECOMMENDATIONS BY
M. JUDSON BOOKSELLERS

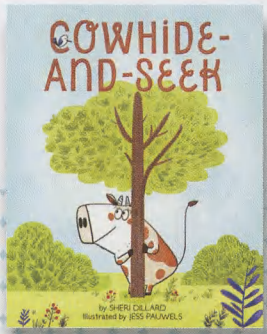
STAFF PICKS SINGLETON

TARKINGTON ONLY LOVE CAN BREAK YOUR HEART

COWHIDE-AND-SEEK

DILLARD / PAUWELS

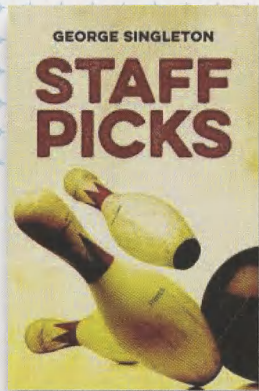
RPIKIDS



COWHIDE-AND-SEEK
BY SHERI DILLARD '88
ILLUSTRATED BY JESS PAUWELS
(Running Press Kids)

Where is Bessie? “Cowhide-and-Seek” is a delightful picture book for the youngest readers. Bessie the cow mistakes Farmer Ted’s head count for a game of hide-and-seek and runs off to find the very best hiding places. Where would a cow hide? Bessie finds so many good spots. Behind a cat! Through the soccer field! Into a pack of runners!

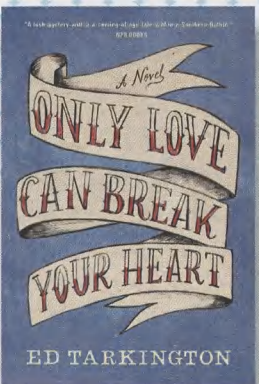
Bessie tries to communicate with friends along the way with her often-misunderstood, single-word vocabulary: “Moo.” Bright, fun illustrations by Jess Pauwels perfectly complement the story. With Farmer Ted forever on the chase, Bessie’s silly adventure roams far and wide, delighting readers with charming pictures and clever wordplay. The kids who attended Dillard’s story time at M. Judson all agree, “Cowhide-and-Seek” is a perfect read-aloud book. Dillard, a preschool librarian in Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from Furman in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in business.



STAFF PICKS
BY GEORGE SINGLETON '80
(Louisiana State University Press)

Singleton’s latest collection, “Staff Picks,” showcases his abiding sense of the absurd, bizarre and hilarious that might be living right next door. But we also find a fresh perspective in these stories, an undercurrent of serious empathy that balances and deepens the funny. In “Four-Way Stop,” an endless night of trick-or-treaters at G.R. and Tina’s rural house ends with two men on crosses, Jesus and the Penitent Thief – which, after a string of

Batmans and Yodas, is played for a joke. But later that night, when sightings of Jesus are being called the Halloween Miracle on the 11 o’clock news, G.R. goes out to find the men, offer them shelter, and, in a sense, confess his sins: He feels responsible for the death of his own son in a car accident years before. The story is at once completely familiar and singularly heartbreaking, leading to the idea that we all have such stories to tell. What more do you want from a half hour’s read but the next one? Singleton is the John C. Cobb Professor of Humanities at Wofford College. He majored in philosophy at Furman.



ONLY LOVE CAN BREAK YOUR HEART
BY ED TARKINGTON '95
(Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

Set in rural Virginia in the 1970s, Tarkington’s debut novel is the story of two brothers and the small-town events that shaped their lives. Rocky idolizes his older brother, Paul, and as he recounts the secrets, betrayals, lies and darkness that brought them to adulthood, you can feel the warm-hearted nostalgia and love. As you can guess from

the Neil Young reference in the title, the novel is full of pitch-perfect references to time and place; as Rocky says, “the sweaty, nauseous, split-headed peak of the hangover between Watergate and ‘Morning in America.’” We think this is one of the best Southern coming-of-age stories out there, equal parts gorgeous and suspenseful, with such carefully drawn characters they seem to live and breathe and leave you wanting just as badly as they do. We’re eagerly awaiting Tarkington’s next book. He majored in English and philosophy at Furman.

Our partners at M. Judson Booksellers reviewed these selections, which can be found in their Furman on Main section. Visit them in downtown Greenville for Furman tees, gifts and books by Furman authors. mjudsonbooks.com ♦