



## Jen's Notes

I love this time of year—the retrospection on the year almost done, the new plans taking shape for the new year about to begin, the deadlines flying by . . .

The Pushcart Prize is a prestigious honor in the literary business, and as a small press I have the honor of nominating up to six pieces. I made a commitment to myself this year to take advantage of the opportunity to nominate six pieces, although it's such a tough call—like narrowing-down-the-winners-of-all-the-contests hard, times three. (See the nominations on the next page.)

Luckily, I did make that deadline, which was December 1st, but the last contest of the year for us, the Genre story contest, due to being pushed back to begin with, was just a bit too late to make this deadline. I nominated the winners of each contest plus an additional piece from each publication so far this year, and leaving out the Genre issue just didn't feel right. Which is why, in honor of being late to begin with, I've pushed the release date for this issue back to January 2nd. That way the winner and contributors will still be in the running for nominations next year.

In other news, I've mentioned before that I am on a quest for resonance here with this publishing endeavor. Last year's Wild Women contest was pretty much the epitome of resonance for me as we had a great turnout and a beautiful collection of stories and poems for our inaugural issue. Thus, the Wild

Women story contest has resonated its way onto our permanent roster, like the flagship Stories That Need to Be Told contest.

In an effort to streamline a bit and not have too many contests too close together, and also because I do love symmetry, moving forward we'll have just two issues of *TulipTree Review* a year. The Wild Women will inhabit the Spring/Summer issue, and the Fall/Winter issue will host a new theme for 2020: Underdogs.

Really, both contests play into an overall theme that's been pinging around in my brain lately, which is the idea of POWER. With an election year coming up, we all get to witness the often ugly struggle in the fight for power, and to me that usually translates as a battle of the bank accounts, a battle of influence, a battle of how many news media outlets one can manipulate . . . But there are many ways power can manifest itself besides the overt and the loud, and besides in battle. Plus, sometimes that overt power can backfire, or prove fickle. Thus, I'm excited to read stories that explore the various manifestations of power, both from the perspective of the feminine and from the perspective of the underdog, which are obviously not mutually exclusive.

Back to resonance, unfortunately some ideas don't have enough. For that reason, the Story of the Week venue will be closed going forward. It's all part of shaking out (pun intended) the pieces that are bound to fall off anyway to reveal the fundamental pieces that will last for TulipTree.

## Pushcart Nominees

I'm happy to announce the contributors nominated for this year's Pushcart Prize:

from *TulipTree Review* Spring 2019 Wild Women issue

- Grand Prize winner: "The Missing Jesus" by Neta Harris
- "Woman off the Grid" by Sandy Lender

from *TulipTree Review* Summer 2019 New Writers issue

- Grand Prize winner: "Gingerbread House" by Daniel Zeiders
- "The Day I Met My Mother" by Patsy Lally

from *Stories That Need to Be Told 2019*

- Grand Prize winner: "Messenger of God" by Morgan Smith
- Depth merit winner: "Neanderthals" by Michael Keane

For more about the prize, visit [www.pushcartprize.com](http://www.pushcartprize.com).

## Wild Women 2020

I am SO excited about our next Wild Women issue! Our new deadline is March 23, 2020, with a release date of May 1, 2020. I've discounted the price on our inaugural issue to \$8.99 for the lead-up to the next contest. If you have a Wild Woman story, you can check out the details, see the past winners, and enter the contest [here](#).

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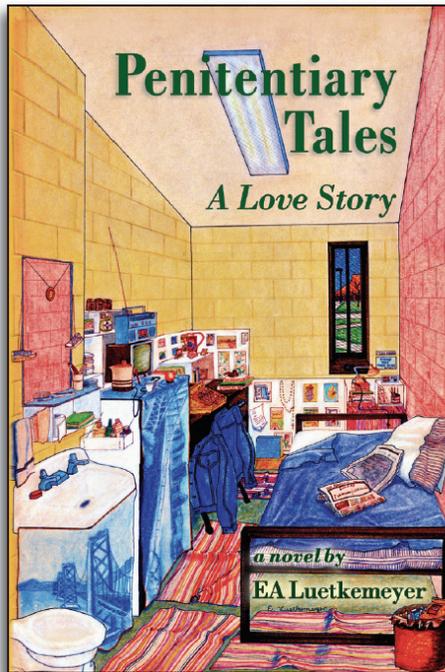


### **Contributors and Future Contributors:**

*If you have been published in a TulipTree collection or on the website, please send your news to [jennifer@tuliptreepub.com](mailto:jennifer@tuliptreepub.com).*

*To be a future contributor, check out [www.tuliptreepub.com](http://www.tuliptreepub.com) for currently open calls for submissions!*

## Contributor News



**“effectively explores the social and political consciousness of the current class and racial divides in modern-day America”**

– Readers’ Favorite, 5-Star Review

### **Penitentiary Tales: A Love Story**

**A novel by EA Luetkemeyer**

**[www.ealuetkemeyer.com](http://www.ealuetkemeyer.com)**

**Softbound**, Retail Price: \$19.95

6 x 9 inches, 362 pages

Print ISBN: 978-0-578-58122-4

**eBook** Retail Price: \$9.99

eBook ISBN: 978-0-578-61097-9

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To read excerpts and reviews of EA Luetkemeyer’s work, visit **[www.ealuetkemeyer.com](http://www.ealuetkemeyer.com)**  
He welcomes comments and dialogue and receives emails at **[geneluetkemeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:geneluetkemeyer@yahoo.com)**

## **Penitentiary Tales: A Love Story** **A Novel by EA Luetkemeyer**

*Penitentiary Tales: a Love Story* recounts the escapades of Dean Davis, a thirty-something, educated, straight white male from the affluent community of Sausalito, in Marin County, California, who is sent to an Illinois prison dominated by a daunting, ethnically diverse population of inmates from the mean streets of Chicago. How does he do his time? What challenges does he meet? Addressing issues of race and gender in America, it is at once a serious inquiry into the minds and hearts of the marginalized and the oppressed and a bit of a romp.

Like Steinbeck’s *Cannery Row*, which celebrates the lives of the disenfranchised during the Great Depression without railing explicitly against social injustice, Luetkemeyer’s audacious new novel sheds light on the daily lives of its characters, and on their humanity no matter how obscured by circumstance.

In a moment of sympathy for an inmate doing life without parole, Davis reflects: “From my point of view we were all victims, even the lowest of the low, the most foul, forlorn and forsaken fuckers on the planet: victimized by the lack of a key, by a missing piece, by the absence of a blueprint, an instruction manual, a map of the soul; by too much of one chemical, too little of another.”

*Penitentiary Tales: a Love Story* will appeal to adventurous and intelligent readers of all persuasions who appreciate a literary walk on the wild side.

**“an insightful and at time darkly disturbing glimpse into an institution rarely entered by most readers”**

– Dr. John M. Coggeshall, Clemson University

THE AUTHOR SERVED four years of a ten year sentence in an Illinois State Prison in the eighties for possession of marijuana, an experience he embraces and which informs much of his writing and world-view. *Penitentiary Tales: a Love Story* is based on the journal he kept to memorialize those years. He was awarded an MFA in Creative writing from Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, in 2015.

His short fiction has appeared in *Sou’wester*, *Opium Magazine*, *Commonthought*, *Del Sol Review*, *Perversion Magazine*, *The Ilanot Review*, and the anthology *Stories That Must Be Told*. He is the author of the novel *Inside the Mind of Martin Mueller* and the memoir *The Book of Chuck: A Memorial Compilation of Poetry and Prose*.

He lives and writes between the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern Oregon and favors the trite but true adage that bad roads lead to good stories.

