**CV**

**KELLY FORDON**

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**Publication History: Poetry Books and Chapbooks**

*Goodbye Toothless House,* Kattywompus Press, March 2019.

*The Witness* Chapbook*,* Kattywompus Press, 2016, Eric Hoffer winner, 2016.

*Tell Me When it Starts to Hurt* Chapbook*,* Kattywompus Press, 2013.

*On the Street Where We Live*, Standing Rock Chapbook Prize winner, 2012.

**Publication History: Fiction Books**

[*I Have the Answer*](https://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/i-have-answer)*,* short story collection, Wayne State University Press, April 2020.

[*Garden for the Blind*](https://www.wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/garden-blind)*,* a linked story collection, Wayne State University Press, April 2015.

**Publication History: Fiction**

*Monkeybicycle,* “Forensics Lab Report,” August 6, 2021.

*Saturday Evening Post,* “Why Did I Ever Think This Was a Good Idea?” finalist anthology, The Great American Fiction Contest, 2020.

*Vol 1, Brooklyn*, “The Shorebirds and the Shaman, Fall 2020.

*Sequestrum,* [“Where’s the Baby?”](https://www.sequestrum.org/fiction-wheres-the-baby) December 2019.

*OJAL: Open: Journal of Arts & Letters,* “Afterward,”February 2018.

*The Florida Review,* “A Shift in the Weather,” January 2016.

*Day-One*, “The Secret Rooms,” October 8, 2014.

*Bartleby Snopes,* “Getting a Grip,” November 25, 2013 and annual print edition.

*The Cleveland Review,* “The Unusual Case of Ann Williams,” July 31, 2012.

*The Montreal Review,* “Opportunity Cost,” May 2012.

*Futurecycle Fiction,* “Hot! Hot! Hot!” spring, 2012.

*Kenyon Review On-line,* “Use Everything in Your Arsenal,” July 2011.

*Ghost Writers, Us Haunting Them, Contemporary Michigan Literature,*Edited by Keith Taylor and Laura Kasischke, “Estate Sale,” Wayne State University Press, September 2011.

*Earlier publications available as needed.*

**Publication History: Poetry**

*Panoplyzine,*”What Hair?” issue 23, 2023.

*Thimble,* “First Dog,” upcoming spring 2023.

*Bear River Review,* “In My Neighborhood Park: DC,”2022.

*Ruminate,* “Dear Mother,” 2022.

*On the Seawall,* “The Lunch Lady,” August 2022.

*Diagram,* “Kenyon College Remembered,” fall 2022.

*Sepia Journal*, “Hands” and “Our Lady of Victory 1981,” 2022.

*Frontier Poetry,* “[Easter, Hall, Montana](https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2021/11/05/poetry-hail-montana-easter-weekend/)” November 5, 2021.

*Monday Night Lit,* “[Water Flowing Underground](http://mondaynightlit.com/23-fordon/),” May 2021.

*Rogue Agent,* “Sappho,” May 1, 2021.

*Museum of Americana,* [“Riding out the Pandemic in my Great Grandmother’s Bedroom,”](https://themuseumofamericana.net/riding-out-the-pandemic-in-my-great-grandmothers-bedroom-poetry-by-kelly-fordon/) 2020.

*Women’s Studies Quarterly,* “The Witness Plays Dodgeball” and “Gaslighting” *WSQ Together,* Fall/Winter 2019.

*Fiolet & Wing: An Anthology of Domestic Fabulist Poetry*, “Gina I,” 2019.

*Mom Egg Review #17,* “Leaving Home,” spring 2019.

*Isthmus,* “The Good Word,” summer 2019.

*Psaltery and Lyre,* “Flu,” Spring 2019.

*Storm Cellar,* “White Women Flinging Cans of Paint at the Wall,” February 18, 2019.

*Blue Lake Review,* “Rescue Dog,” November 2018.

*Slipstream,* “The Mortician,” summer 2018.

*The American Journal of Poetry,* “Agape*,*”“Incubus,” “What the Church said to Melissa,” “One Day” and “Mom,” January 2018.

*Rattle,* “Who am I?” Rust Belt Poets, Fall 2017.

*Concis,* “The Little Match Girl,” March 16, 2017.

*Poetry Center Chapbook Exchange,* “The Witness” Chapbook one of five chosen for the chapbook exchange in January 2017. <https://poetrychapbooks.omeka.net/>

*Gingko Tree Review,*“Ask the Mortician”  and “At the Cosmetics Counter,” 2017.

*The Tampa Review,* “How Slowly the Brain Registers,” 2017.

*Switchback,*“Riding the Train through New England,” 2015.

*Dialogist,*“Thanksgiving,” 2015.

*Minerva Rising****,***“Looks Like You're Penned In,” 2015.

*Earlier publications available as needed.*

**Publication History: Non-Fiction and Book Reviews:**

*Michigan Quarterly Review,* “Why I Write: Reckoning with Familial Origins, <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/mqr/2021/09/reckoning-with-familial-origins-kelly-fordon-on-why-she-writes/>

*Kenyon Review Online,* “[Enclosure](https://kenyonreview.org/kr-online-issue/2021-janfeb/selections/kelly-fordon-656342/),” January, February 2021.

*New York Journal of Books,* Thomas Lynch, “Bone Rosary,” March 2021.

*New York Journal of Books,* Sarah J. Sloat, “[Hotel Almighty](https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/hotel-almighty),” September 2020.

*River Teeth*, “Astraphobia,” 2020, nominated for Pushcart Prize.

*Stateside with Cynthia Canty, Michigan Radio,* Anne-Marie Oomen, ed., “Elemental,”February 2019.

*Wasafiri Review,* Zilka Joseph, “Bright Blue Search of Flame,” <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/JwBPg2SCQgWFBwpiufir/full>, June 2018.

*TBD Magazine,* “Inside Out Literary Arts” upcoming 2018.

*TBD Magazine*, This Old House…Rocks, April 2017.

<https://www.tbdmag.com/this-old-house-rocks/>

*TBD Magazine,* Poetic Rebellion, January 2017.

<https://www.tbdmag.com/poetic-rebellion/>.

*The Common,* Stephen Mack Jones, *August Snow,* Friday Reads, March 2017.

*Stateside with Cynthia Canty, Michigan Radio,* Andy Mozina, *Contrary Motion,* January 2017.

*Stateside with Cynthia Canty, Michigan Radio,* Tyehimba Jess, *Olio*, August 2016.

<http://michiganradio.org/post/michigan-bookmark-olio-takes-unique-approach-tell-stories-post-civil-war-black-performers>

*The Common,* Kali Van Baale*, The Good Divide,* May 2016.

*Literary Mama,* Desiree Cooper’s *Know the Mother*, 2016.

*Calyx,* Sarah Gorham's *Study in Perfect*, 2016.

*The Common*, Megan Mayhew Bergman’s, *Almost Famous Women*, February 2015.

*The Common,* Greg Baxter’s *Munich Airport* March 2015.

*The Boston Review*, Jeffrey Skinner’s, *The 6.5 Practices of Moderately Successful Poets*, July/August 2012.

*The Kenyon Review (KRO)* Lia Purpura’s, *Rough Likeness*, May 2012.

*Earlier publications available as needed.*

**Publication History: Plays**

*The Kenyon Review Online,* “On the Street Where We Live,” collaboration with Robin Martin, September/October 2019.

**Education:**

Queens University of Charlotte, M.F.A. in Fiction Writing.

Ohio University, M.S. in Communications, Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society.

Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, B.A. in International Studies, Chinese.

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory High School.

**Teaching and Professional Affiliations**

Lit Youngstown, Fall Literary Festival Featured Presenter, Fiction, October 20-22nd, 2022.

Lost Lake Writers Retreat, Poetry Instructor, October 6-9, 2022.

Creative Writing Adjunct, University of Detroit Mercy, 2022.

College for Creative Studies,Creative Writing adjunct instructor, 2017-2019.

Springfed Arts,Creative Writing instructor, 2012-present.

Inside Out Literary Arts, Writer-in-Residence in the Detroit Public Schools,

Detroit, Michigan, 2012-2019

Co-facilitator, [The East Side Reading Series](https://www.facebook.com/eastsidereadingseries/about/?ref=page_internal), Detroit, Michigan, 2018-2019.

Writing While White, [The Muse Writers Center](https://the-muse.org/event/writing-while-white-how-to-be-a-voice-of-change-2/) with Desiree Cooper and Terry Blackhawk, May 1, 2021.

From Poetry to Prose in a Flash Workshop with Kelly Fordon, Tuxedo Project, April 13, 2021.

Eric Hoffer, First Reader for Poetry Contest, 2017-2019.

AWP Panelist, R131. Know Your Place: Great Lakes Literary Arts Organizations on the Impact of Location, Karen Schubert, Kelly Fordon, Janine Harrison, Lee Chilcote, David Hassler, February 2017.

College for Creative Studies, Creative Writing 101 Instructor, 2017.

Lost Lake Writers Retreat, Alcona, Michigan, Fiction Instructor, October 6-9, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022 (upcoming).

Kerrytown Bookfest, Panelist, Identity in Fiction with Desiree Cooper and Andy Mozina, September 11, 2016.

Windsor International Writers Conference, workshop facilitator, April 2016.

Voices of the Middle West, panel moderator, March 12, 2016.

Windsor Bookfest, workshop facilitator and poetry panelist, October 17, 2015.

Detroit Working Writers Conference, workshop facilitator, May 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Rochester Writers Conference, Presenter, October 4, 2014.

Mary McCarthy Award, Sarabande Books, first reader, 2010.

*Earlier work available as needed.*

**Scholarships**

Harvard Graduate School of Education, *Poetry in America for Teachers: The City from Whitman to Hip Hop*, 90 hours of professional development, June 25 - August 10, 2017

Writers in Paradise (2016)

Aspen Writer’s Conference (2013 and 2014)

Key West Literary Festival (2010)

Bear River Writer’s Conference (2009)

Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference (1993)

**Conferences/Courses/Residencies**

VCCA Fellow, November/December 2022.

Bear River Writers Conference with Antonya Nelson, (2021)

Jentel Artist Residency, Sheridan, Wyoming (2019)

UCLA Extension, Reframing Form with Rosebud Ben-Oni (2018)

One Story Writers Conference with Will Allison (2018)

Writers in Paradise, Fiction Workshop with Stewart O’Nan (2016)

Aspen Writer’s Conference, Fiction with Julia Glass (2014)

Aspen Writer’s Conference, Fiction with Paul Harding (2013)

Kenyon College Writer’s Workshop with Chris Tilghman (2008)

**Awards**

2022 Best of the Net nomination, “Hands,” *Sepia Journal.*

2021 Midwest Book Award Finalist, *I Have the Answer.*

2021 Eric Hoffer Finalist in the Short Story Category, *I Have the Answer.*

2020 Eyelands Literary Awards, Finalist in Poetry, *Goodbye Toothless House*.

2020 Best of the Net nomination, “Riding out the Pandemic,” *Museum of Americana.*

2020 Pushcart nomination, “Astraphobia,” River Teeth.

2020 Disquiet Literary International Prize Long List for “Astraphobia.”

2020 *Saturday Evening Post,* finalist Great American Fiction Contest.

2019 Eric Hoffer Finalist in Poetry, *Goodbye Toothless House.*

2018 Pushcart Nomination, “This is Not a Poem,” *One Jacar Press.*

2018 ScreenCraft Cinematic Short Story Contest, quarterfinalist, “The Devil’s Proof.”

2016 Pushcart nomination, “At the Cosmetics Counter,” *Gingko Tree Review*.

2016 Eric Hoffer Winner in the Chapbook Category and Finalist for the Grand Prize, *The Witness*, Kattywompus Press.

2016 Eric Hoffer Finalist, *Garden for the Blind*, Wayne State University Press.

2016 Midwest Book Award Finalist, *Garden for the Blind,* Wayne State University Press.

2015 Michigan Notable Book, *Garden for the Blind*, Wayne State University Press.

2015 Forewords’ Review Indiefab Finalist, Short Story Category, *Garden for the Blind*.

2015, Pushcart nomination, Wayne State University Press, “Opportunity Cost.”

2014, Wigleaf Top 50, Best of the Web, “A Small Bridge.”

2014, Shortlisted, ArtSlant, Georgia Fee Residency.

2014, Winner, *Redivider*, 2014 AWP Poetry Quickie Contest

2014, Shortlisted, Fish Publishing International Short Story Contest.

2014, Finalist, 2014 Carolina Wren Press Poetry Series.

2012, Finalist, Tuscany Prize, novel category.

2012, Semi-finalist James Jones First Novel Fellowship, September 2012.

2012, Finalist in the Anam Cara poetry award for *Train.*

2011 Standing Rock Chapbook Competition, winner, publication of *On the Street Where We Live*, in February 2011.

2011 Honorable Mention, *Tiferet* Journal Fiction Competition, for *Garden for the Blind*.

2011 National Finalist, The Midwest Writing Center’s Mississippi Valley Poetry Contest, *Confessional,* publication in *Off Channel*, fall 2011.

2010 Katherine Handley Prose Poem Prize, third place for *Eleanor on the Playground*.

**Readings and Panels**

*Michigan Quarterly Review* Launch Reading at the Room Project, Detroit, January 21, 2023.

VCCA Prose Reading with Julie Satow and Betsy Boyd, December 7, 2022.

Brain Candy, Dearborn, MI November 21, 2022.

AWP, How to Publish Fiction and Memoir with University Presses, March 26, 2022.

Room Project Detroit, reading with Thisbe Nissen and Jean Alicia Elster, November 2021.

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle Reading, featured reader, June 23,2021.

Writing While White: How to be a Voice of Change with Desiree Cooper and Terry Blackhawk, May 1, 2021, Muse Writers.

Great Indoor Reading Series, April 23, 2021.

[The Inner Loop Readings Series February 16, 2021.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6kshfNIxiM)

[Lit Youngstown Reading August 2020](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJ86ZXpvEHg).

Reading and Discussion of “I Have the Answer,” online via Harrison Township Library. June 2020.

Pages Bookshop, “I Have the Answer,” book launch June 2020.

**May 27, 2020: “**Building Your Literary Community” panel discussion with Desiree Cooper, Lolita Hernandez and Laura Hulthen Thomas online via Wayne State University Press.

Grosse Pointe Public Library, “I Have the Answer,” book launch, April 2020.

Bookbound with Zilka Joseph, October 23, 2019.

#YeahYouWrite with Will Allison, John Durbin, Clifford Garstang and Myla Goldberg, June 18, 2019.

Eastside Reading Series, May 18, 2019.

PuppetArt Reading, Troy, Michigan, May 16, 2019.

Pages Bookshop with John Freeman, Zilka Joseph, Michael Lauchlan and Dorene O’Brien on April 18, 2019.

Motor-Signal Return with Elizabeth Schmuhl, April 11, 2019.

Detroit Writers Guild, Poets and Pies, April 2, 2019.

Kresge Panel with Desiree Cooper, November 2018.

**Praise for Kelly Fordon, Wayne State University Press**

“Each of Kelly Fordon's stories is perceptive, memorable, and moving--but taken together, they compose something far more significant: a tragicomic elegy for American youth as we knew it in the late twentieth century. I loved this book, and I will be haunted by its recurring characters for some time to come.”

— Julia Glass, author of *And the Dark Sacred Night* and National Book Award winner *Three Junes*

“*Garden for the Blind* is one of the most intricately and beautifully constructed works of fictions I’ve read.  It’s a gem made of many facets.  Mostly gentle and domestic, its sense, however, add up to a breathtaking whole.  It is full of characters and interiors—both physical and psychological—that are so fully realized they are impossible to think of strictly on the page.  They love, and exist, and this is both an intense and page-turning adventure and a work of stories, over which you will linger, with awe at the precision and grace of its sentences and images.  Kelly Fordon is a writer to admire, and to keep an eye on, and this work in one I’m never going to forget.”

—Laura Kasischke, author of *Mind of Winter* and *Eden Springs* (Wayne State University Press, 2010)

*Garden for the Blind* is a unique and constantly engaging collection of linked stories in which we are richly rewarded by a greater scope and a larger sense of the generations in play in this entertaining array of fictions. This book is a true joy to read, and a wonderful debut.

\_ Fred Leebron, Director, Queens University of Charlotte MFA program

 “In *Garden for the Blind* Kelly Fordon has situated her stories such that they dazzle with the immediacy of deeply felt life even as together they awe with the epic sweep of a life lived.  Whether set in Greater Detroit, the Caribbean, or the Great Lakes Region of northern Ohio, each story finds its peculiar curiosity in the midst of blight and rends the reader’s heartstrings with the love the character has for it.  An unforgettable first collection.”

—Daniel Mueller, author of *Nights I Dreamed of Hubert Humphrey* and *How Animals Mate*

“A strikingly atmospheric and psychologically acute collection of linked stories about the long-lasting reverberations of a childhood accident.”

— Jenny Offill, author of *Dept. of Speculation*

 “The rich are different from you and me ... as Kelly Fordon so movingly conveys in her unflinching look at the lives of wealthy white auto executives and their families in the paradisiacal suburbs that surround an ever-decaying inner-city Detroit in the waning decades of the twentieth century and the start of the new millennium. Fordon's beautifully rendered stories chart the terrible tensions created by polarities in race, gender, and social class and the efforts of one young woman in particular to transcend those divides and figure out what it means to be a moral human being.”

—Eileen Pollack, former director of the Master of Fine Arts program at University of Michigan and author of *Breaking and Entering*

“Kelly Fordon’s profound and deeply moving stories ask how you deal with the unbearable truths of your life: the missteps and missed chances. Fordon’s characters have to navigate a world of cynical politics and easy drugs. They long for their own identity but are lost in the demands the world makes of them. They want a set of rules in which to live their lives of easy comfort and killing neighborhoods. These stories are at once unsentimental and tender and you won’t forget them.”

— Gloria Whelan, National Book Award winner and author of *Living Together* (Wayne State University Press, 2013) which received the 2014 IPPY Silver Medal Award

**References:**

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Laura Van Prooyen Lauravpc@gmail.com