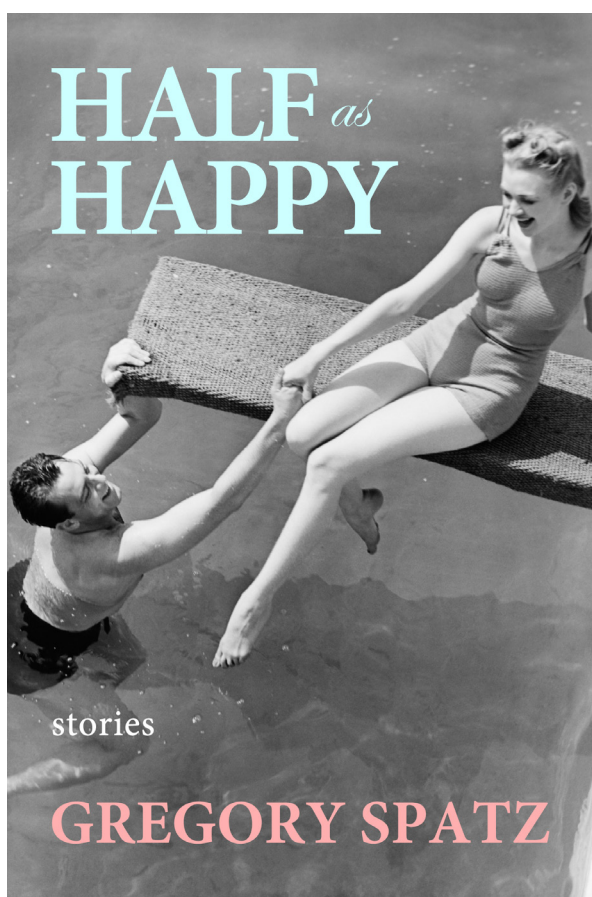


HALF *as* HAPPY

Stories by Gregory Spatz
in paperback original and ebook from Engine Books

“THESE STORIES WILL MEND READERS’ HEARTS EVEN AS THEY BREAK THEM,
AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES THEM SO WONDERFUL AND RARE.”

—PAUL HARDING, PULITZER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR OF *TINKERS*



A grieving couple rents a desperate landlord’s house in an effort to recover lost intimacy. Twins are irrevocably separated by events both beyond and within their control. A nighttime prank and its gruesome aftermath forge human connections no one could have anticipated.

The eight stories in *Half as Happy* reveal with startling clarity their characters’ secrets, losses, and desires. Each with the depth of a novel, these insightful portraits of the darkness and light within us reverberate long after they’ve ended, like beautiful and disturbing dreams.

“THESE STORIES ARE BOTH FUNNY AND SAD, IN THE TRUE
AND INESCAPABLE WAY OF REAL LIFE, FULL OF ELEGIAC BEAUTY.
A MASTERFUL COLLECTION.”

—BRAD WATSON, AUTHOR OF *ALIENS IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIVES*

“GREGORY SPATZ’S SEARCHING, COMPLEX STORIES LINGER
WITH BELL-LIKE CLARITY.”

—ERIN MCGRAW, AUTHOR OF *THE SEAMSTRESS OF
HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD*

“THESE ARE BEAUTIFULLY-WROUGHT, HAUNTING STORIES. SPATZ
IS A MARVELOUS WRITER, WITH A KEEN EYE FOR THE SECRETS
OF THE HUMAN HEART.”

—DAN CHAON, AUTHOR OF *STAY AWAKE*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in New York City, Gregory Spatz holds degrees from Haverford College, University of New Hampshire, and The University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. He now lives in Spokane, Washington, where he teaches in the MFA program at the Inland Northwest Center for Writers, Eastern Washington University. Spatz spent his youth in New England, mostly in the Berkshires.

He is the author of novels *Inukshuk*, *Fiddler’s Dream*, and *No One But Us*, as well as a short story collection, *Wonderful Tricks*. His short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Glimmer Train Stories*, and *New England Review*, among others, and he has published numerous book and music reviews for *The Oxford American*. He is the recipient of a 2012 NEA Literature Fellowship.

TITLE: HALF AS HAPPY: STORIES

Author: Gregory Spatz

Publication Date: April 2013

Paperback: \$14.95 . 183 pages

Trade Paperback Original

Ebook: ISBN 978-1-938126-03-1

ISBN 978-1-938126-09-3

Trim Size: 5 1/4 x 8

\$14.95

Distributed to the Trade by Consortium Book Sales & Distribution, LLC

34 Thirteenth Avenue NE, Suite 101, Minneapolis, MN 55413

(800) 283-3572 orders; (612) 746-2606 fax

MARKETING & PUBLICITY

- Advance Reader Copies
- National Print Campaign
- Social Media Campaign
- National Web Campaign
- Goodreads Giveaway

Author Hometown:
Spokane, WA



ABOUT ENGINE BOOKS

Engine Books is a boutique fiction press publishing novels, short story collections, collected novellas, and related volumes. Recent and forthcoming titles include *Other Heartbreaks* by Patricia Henley; Myfanwy Collins’ *Echolocation*; *Into This World* by Sybil Baker; *Body and Bread*, a novel by Nan Cuba; and debut novels by Snowden Wright and Claudia Zuluaga. Learn more at enginebooks.org.

PRAISE FOR GREGORY SPATZ

INUKSHUK

“Hauntingly honest and emotionally resonant.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Intimate and meditative...A thoughtful and sympathetic look at the sometimes troubled relationship between fathers and sons.” —*Booklist*

“Entertaining and much recommended.” —*Midwest Book Review*

“Never overreaches. The resulting mix of well-researched history and contemporary fiction makes for a fine, sad read.”
—Kim Ode, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“An elaborate tale of family and the paths people take to understanding.” —*Seattle Times*

“Fearless. Utterly unforgettable.” —Colleen Mondor, *Bookslut*

“*Inukshuk* better communicates darkness and distress than any S.O.S. signal...We can’t help but oscillate between feeling empathy and agony for this family as we are absorbed by Spatz’s cold, gripping tale.” —*ZYZZYVA*

“A mesmerizing story of a father and a son.” —*Largehearted Boy*

“This enthralling, tense book should lure not only fans of extreme weather novels but also those who admire a good, traditional structure and a satisfying and meaningful resolution.” —Olive Mullet, *New Pages*

FIDDLER’S DREAM

“When a gifted writer finds the language to combine a love of music and a knowledge of music, something just clicks.”
—Alan Cheuse, NPR “All Things Considered”

“Not just a coming-of-age story but a poetic insight into the world of the musician. Slow down and enjoy the music in every sentence.” —David Flood, *Seattle Times*

“An unrivaled look into a young music lover’s world and how the genre he loves slowly begins to define his life. Spatz’s vivid insight into the music and the players Jesse meets is the heartfelt core of the book. A satisfying novel, ringing with the dedicated truth of American roots music, and the honesty and complicated vision of a quietly remarkable young man.”
— Mary Houlihan, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“If you’ve ever wondered about the connection between music and literature, you’ll find it in *Fiddler’s Dream*, a ‘high lonesome’ novel about a young man and his quest to become a bluegrass musician.” —Charles Ealy, *Dallas Morning News*

WONDERFUL TRICKS

“Tender portraits of people caught in difficult, in-between moments ripe with choice, vignettes that can spark a recollection of the heartbreaking struggles of youth...Eloquent prose.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“Spatz explores the complicated, often bewildering emotions behind various forms of love: between fathers and sons, between spouses, between lovers. The tales, suffused with a gentle melancholy, are driven not by external events, but by the characters’ memories of loss and their futile search for unfettered affection. Spatz can subtly and economically depict the erosion or betrayal of love, portraying his characters’ inner lives in expressive but unadorned prose. Quietly moving, resonant images of emotional push and pull.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Filled with unexpected insight.” —*Booklist*

“*Wonderful Tricks* is a magical collection of ten stories that shines a light on the holographic nature of relationships and all their hard-edged fragments, giving the reader a pleasing whole that lingers long after the book is closed...
Right down to the sentence level, Spatz successfully magnifies the realities and illusions of relationships in carefully crafted prose that satisfies.” —*Seattle Times*

“Romances that fizzle and fray, marriages gone bust, and teenagers trying to make sense of love—such are the [collection’s] all-too-human delights.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Not unlike the airy Marc Chagall figures on the book’s cover, the characters in *Wonderful Tricks* circle ineffectually around one another and are estranged by varying degrees of emotional gravity. In a sense these are love stories, inhabited by strong-willed women and bewildered men, and by children who see more than they should, both literally and figuratively...[Spatz’s] characters long to memorize the exact sense of what it is to love and leave a place or person behind, or secretly to relinquish an adult’s vocabulary, articulation and knowledge in order to bump along like a small child again.” —*The Inlander*