

1-1-2017

# Stories

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Stories

A Thesis

Presented for the

Master of Arts

Degree

The University of Mississippi

Marc Inman

May 2017

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## ABSTRACT

This is a work of fiction.

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## CHAPTER I

The neighbor told the police it had happened like this: He was out chopping firewood (and mind you, this was in the middle of summer, on the hottest day of the year) when something happened, he wasn't sure what, that made his axe veer off course, and instead of splitting the wood, he chopped his hand off. So, he ran inside for help, leaving his hand where it fell, by the axe and the wood. And when his wife—after wrapping his wound with a T-shirt and telling the teen-age daughter to call nine-one-one—sent the ten-year-old son out with a Tupperware of ice to retrieve the hand, the son soon ran back inside, upset, saying that it—the hand!—had vanished “It’s just gone,” the son kept yelling. “I can’t find it.” The son had looked all over, he reported between sobs, by the pool of blood next the wood and the axe, and he had even followed a trail of blood to the house, looking along the way. But nothing.

The police asked if maybe the neighbor had moved his hand and not remembered—what with him being in shock and everything. A safe spot, maybe, up off the ground, where it could be retrieved later. “I mean, I wouldn’t leave my hand on the ground,” said the cop with a mustache and notepad. Or, they asked, had he noticed anything suspicious that might aid them in finding and recovering the hand? The neighbor contemplated this as he laid back on the stretcher waiting to be loaded into the ambulance. “Well,” he said, “I thought I saw a dog pacing around the open fence.” He raised his right arm, as if he were about to point, forgetting that he was now missing

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The police asked if maybe the neighbor had moved his hand and not remembered—what with him being in shock and everything. A safe spot, maybe, up off the ground, where it could be retrieved later. "I mean, I wouldn't leave my hand on the ground," said the cop with a mustache and notepad. Or, they asked, had he noticed anything suspicious that might aid them in finding and recovering the hand? The neighbor contemplated this as he laid back on the stretcher waiting

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## VITA

Marc Inman

### EDUCATION

MFA Creative Writing, University of Mississippi, 2017  
Thesis Advisor: Chris Offutt  
BA Film Studies, University of Utah, 1998

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Adjunct Instructor, University of Mississippi, 2016-present  
Graduate Teaching Instructor, University of Mississippi, 2014-2016  
Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Mississippi, 2013-2014  
Courses Taught  
First-Year Writing 1, Writing 101 (2 sections per semester), Fall 2016-Spring 2017  
Introduction to Cinema Studies, English 310, Summer 2016  
Beginning Fiction Workshop, English 302, Fall 2015  
First-Year Writing 2, Writing 102: Pop Culture (2 sections), Spring 2015  
First-Year Writing 1, Writing 101, Fall 2014  
Introduction to Creative Writing, English 300, Summer 2014  
Teaching Assistant  
American Literature since Civil War, English 224, Fall 2013-Spring 2014  
3 sections per semester as discussion leader and principal grader

### AWARDS & GRANTS

Dissertation Fellowship, University of Mississippi, Spring 2016  
Emerging Artist Grant, Film, Utah Arts Council, 2007  
Society of Illustrators Award, Art Direction, key art for short film, 2005  
Panavision New Filmmaker Grant, 2003

### PUBLICATIONS

Short Films  
*Know the Customer*, 2007  
Director/Writer  
Nashville Film Festival, Nashville, TN, March 2008 (Oscar qualifying festival)  
Black Maria Film Festival, Jersey City, NJ, 2008 (Oscar qualifying festival)  
Director's Choice Award  
Utah Arts Council Artist Showcase, Rio Grande Gallery, Salt Lake City, 2007  
Emerging Artist Award

*Loving Kimberly*, 2004

Director/Writer  
Sacramento Film Festival, Sacramento, CA, April 2005  
"Young Love" program  
Garden State Film Festival, Asbury Park, NJ, March 2005  
Essays & Stories  
"My Brother's Dinner with the President of Sears" (memoir/essay), under submission, winter 2016-17  
"You Haven't Lived Until You've Almost Died" (memoir/essay), under submission, winter 2016-17

“Hit-&-Run” (short-short/fiction), under submission, winter 2016-17

#### READINGS

Broken English, March 2016

University of Mississippi MFA Reading Series, Oxford, Mississippi

Broken English, December 2013

University of Mississippi MFA Reading Series, Oxford, Mississippi

Weber State University National Undergraduate Literary Conference, April 2013  
Ogden, Utah

Enormous Rooms, May 2012

University of Utah Undergraduate Literary Magazine Reading Series  
Salt Lake City, Utah

University of Utah Undergraduate Literary Conference, April 2012

Salt Lake City, Utah

#### SELECT JOB HISTORY

Production Supervisor

Excel Entertainment Group, June 2007-Dec 2008, Salt Lake City, Utah

Coordinated and supervised post-production needs on feature films and commercials

Produced film trailers and promotional materials for feature films such as television commercials, a television special, DVD extra features, and radio ads

Supervised replication of theatrical trailers, 35 mm prints, and digital prints; and placement and delivery of trailers, prints, and marketing materials to theaters

Art directed and coordinated printing of point-of-purchase marketing materials, DVD entrapments, DVD face art, and displays for DVD products and theatrical releases

Supervised printing of an illustrated children’s book

Coordinated placement of feature film trailers to online sites; organized and placed promotional segments shown in local theaters

Assisted in numerous public promotional events, tradeshow, and film premieres—including a national release in New York City

#### Film Production

Various Companies, Jan 1998-June 2007, Salt Lake City, Utah

Select jobs include:

Production Assistant—National spot for Ameriprise starring Dennis Hopper

Producer’s Assistant—*The Amazing Race*/CBS, 1 episode, Salt Lake City

Assistant to the Talent Coordinator—AOL/MovieFone, 2007 Sundance Film Festival, coordinated talent for *AOL Unscripted* and *Black Voices*, a series of web shows during the Sundance Film Festival

Production Assistant—Moxie Films, national spots directed by Jared Hess (*Napoleon Dynamite*) for Nike, Helio, ESPN, etc.

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director—Studeo Interactive, a series of national direct response ads

Assistant Director—Spots for companies such as Telos, Metropolis, Trek West, Kaleidoscope, etc, for clients

Associated Foods, Franklin Covey, etc.

2<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director—*Fortune Cookie*, feature film

2<sup>nd</sup> Unit Assistant Director—*Out of Step*, feature film

Production Assistant—Local and national spots for GO RV, Fountainhead Productions, Left Turn Pictures, etc., and PBS special “Innovators”

Grip/Electric—Local and national spots for companies such as Cosmic Pictures and Telos Productions, for clients such as March of Dimes, Proctor and Gamble, IHC, UTA, KBYU, etc.

Art Department—*The Testaments*, Imax film

Locations Manager—Metropolis Productions, local ad spots

Camera Assistant

2001 Sundance Filmmakers Lab, June 2001, Sundance Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Assisted Independent Spirit Award nominated cinematographer, Harlan Bosmajian, on films *The Sleep Dealer* and *Stephanie Dailey*, both of which went on to win the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award at the Sundance Film Festival

Assistant Coordinator for Volunteers  
1999 Sundance Film Festival, Oct 1998-Feb 1999, Sundance Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Assisted in the coordination and assignment of over 900 volunteers for the festival  
Solely responsible for maintenance of volunteer database, setup of BMG Music Café, and hiring and assigning of translators for international filmmakers