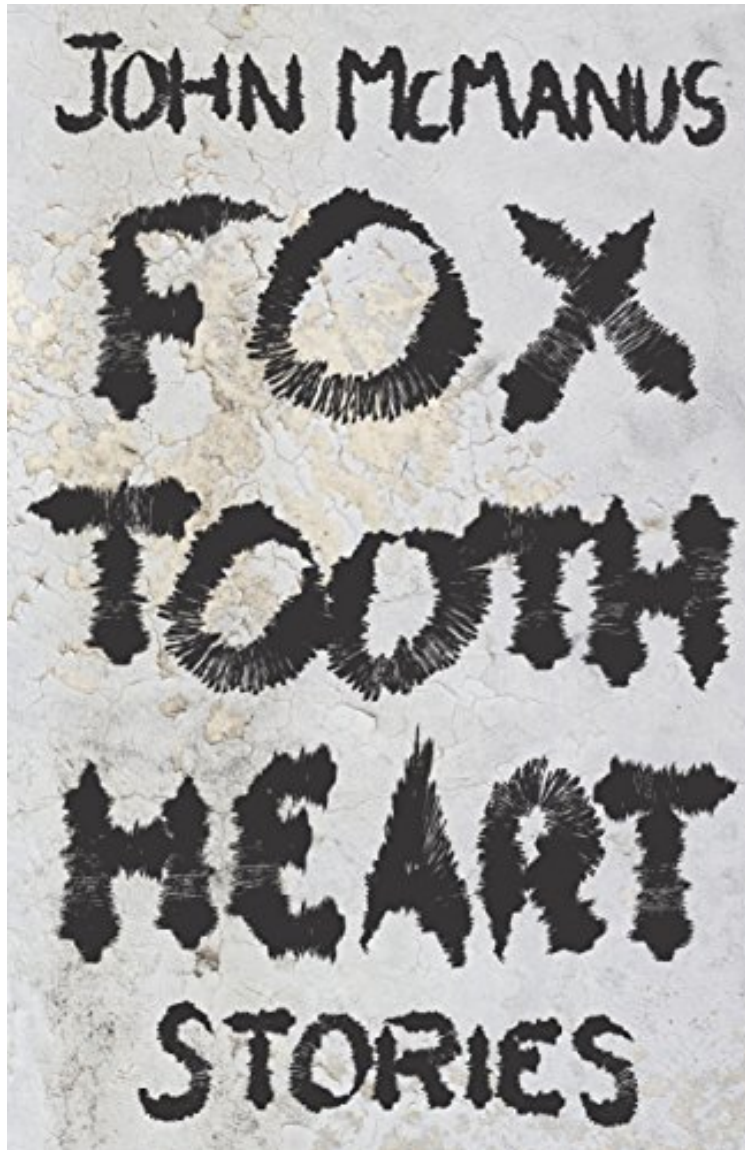


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## Fox Tooth Heart

*John McManus*

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**John McManus : Fox Tooth Heart** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fox Tooth Heart:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book for interesting people.By Young Jean Leelf you've had a relatively placid, uneventful life and prefer for your cultural experiences to provide you with the comforting familiarity that you would get from, say, a trip to Chipotle, then this may not be the book for you. However, if you're super-smart and had a tortured youth and are still a bit messed-up yet have managed to eke out a

measure of happiness for yourself through sheer force of will and a survivor mentality, then you may very well enjoy this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great read. Check out also Bitter Milk by the ...By ARiJohn McManus is an amazingly original and important writer. There is a dream-like quality to these stories of awkward boys and agonized young men. It's all told with hallucinatory clarity and an unsparing, sometimes shocking honesty. A great read. Check out also Bitter Milk by the same author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Slow and boringBy BugsyI did not like the author's style of writing. It was very slow and boring to me. I couldn't get through much of it without giving up. I donated it to Goodwill.

"A phenomenal talent blazing up suddenly on the horizon. . . . precise, brilliant language that evokes without ever having to explain. . . . His transcendent vision gives us devastating glimpses."—Elle"John McManus writes visceral prose that explodes within the tight boundaries of the short story. These narratives possess a graceful internal logic and feature a wide range of gritty characters rebelling against an indifferent and often brutal world."—Bookforum"The stories in John McManus's *Born on a Train* are powered by radiant prose."—Vanity Fair"John McManus's long awaited short story collection encompasses the geographic limits of America, from trailers hidden in deep Southern woods to an Arkansas ranch converted into an elephant refuge. His lost-soul characters reel precariously between common anxiety and drug-enhanced paranoia, sober reality and fearsome hallucination. These nine masterpieces of twisted humor and pathos re-establish McManus as one of the most bracing voices of our time. John McManus is the author of the novel *Bitter Milk* and the short story collections *Born on a Train* and *Stop Breakin' Down*, all published by Picador. His work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *American Short Fiction*, *The Oxford American*, *The Literary Review*, *Harvard Review*, and many other places. He is the youngest-ever recipient of the Whiting Award.

Selected by the American Booksellers Association as an Indie Next Pick for December 2015"Finalist for Foreword s' INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award"McManus invites readers on an eccentric journey through Southern, Southwestern, and Middle America in this collection of wildly inventive short stories. Though they're set in America, they exist in a meticulously crafted world, quite different than our own.... McManus delves into the minds of his characters, allowing readers to experience their anxieties, delusions, fantasies, and fears."?Publishers Weekly"McManus shows a quirky originality in these nine stories as he focuses on the outré and bizarre doings of his off-center characters. Along with creating a compelling cast, McManus shows himself a master of openings. With his strange cast of drunks, murderers, and the drug-addled, McManus fits comfortably into a tradition of Gothic writing, adding his own?dare one say peculiar??twists."?Kirkus s "McManus burrows deep under the skins of his rough, cast-out characters and emerges with stories that are bold and ingenious."?The New York Times Book "Achingly visceral... a masterpiece."?The Atlanta Journal-Constitution"Fox Tooth Heart will impress readers.... McManus is a terrific writer. Regarding the "Southern decadence" in his stories, consider that Edgar Poe's lunatics and sensualists also blacked out from opium, alcohol or fear; and that Tennessee Williams' depraved neurotics, like the playwright himself, often ran from truths of the heart."?Minneapolis Star Tribune"McManus's unstinting drive to cut to the core of each moment, to show rather than tell, and to avoid explicit moralization, gives his writing its toughness and latent urgency.... More clearly than any writer I have read in recent years, McManus sees the terrible humor in loss while lodging the admonition that nobody's life is a joke."?Los Angeles of Books"Feverish, psychotropic, bold, mesmerizing, painful, Fox Tooth Heart is full of stories about people living on the margins of society, characters born into dark circumstances, or... driven there by their own obsessions and addictions. For those wearied by predictable fiction, Fox Tooth Heart is manna from someplace more interesting and sorrowful than heaven."?The Huffington Post"In his new collection of stories, Fox Tooth Heart, John McManus puts his arm around our shoulder and walks us out to the margin, calmly pointing out all the unfortunate souls who have stepped across the thin line. When he turns us away from the grotesque, toward the homes his characters can't find their way back to, the familiar is dizzying in its sway."?The Literary "McManus has a gift for idiosyncratic openings that make the reader lean in and listen. His sentences carry a confidential note. They make you excited and a little afraid for whatever is coming around the corner.... He is a major American author with a wonderful eye for people's insecurities and a wonderful ear for the babble of their dreams. Fox Tooth Heart ...contains several stories that will rattle around in your brain for a long time after re-reading."?Electric Literature "[Y]ou'll hear McManus get compared to Denis Johnson, but that's not quite right. Sure, his characters are junkies and derelicts, but McManus doesn't have Johnson's affinity for the divine. His are the down-and-out heroes of George Saunders or John Updike, captured just before their fall. They're people struggling for their place in the world or who must settle for something less than they've hoped for.... Fox Tooth Heart is the work of an older man still grappling with how we come by the beliefs that define us."?Vice.com"This collection of short stories has such diversity in character and theme that reading more than one story in a sitting can be psychologically challenging.... [The stories] are unsettling, amusing, curious and intriguing, and they will hold your mind firmly in their grasp."?Philadelphia Gay News"McManus's fiction is difficult to pin down: though his characters often exist on the fringes of society, there's a strain of surrealism running through the proceedings.... But for all of their stranger elements, the worlds in which these are set feel decidedly lived-in... These are stories in which the

pastoral, historical atrocities, and contemporary bad behavior all collide."?Literary Hub"[McManus's] prose is terse and effective, like poetry can be."?Oxford American"A truly impressive collection of deftly crafted, original and absorbing stories by a master wordsmith."?Midwest Book