



P R E S S R E L E A S E

EKSTASIS EDITIONS CELEBRATES THE RELEASE OF NEW FICTION FROM LEN GASPARINI

When Does a Kiss Become a Bite?

In his latest book of stories, *When Does a Kiss Become a Bite?*, Len Gasparini holds a broken mirror up to reality to reveal the shattered shards of vivid characters with grace and precision.

The stories in *When Does A Kiss Become a Bite?* are Chekhovian in scope, eloquent statements, strikingly rendered, executed with dark tenderness and hypnotic conviction. Gasparini writes with a rough, seductive charm of the private loneliness of Tennessee Williams, of a couple of rounders on a wild ride to New Orleans, of a nightworker consumed by Gothic fear and self-loathing, of a Poe scholar, finding his Annabel Lee, but, like Poe, ending in the gutter. An authentic narrative impulse drives each of the ten stories, as if Nelson Algren and O. Henry, after a night of serious drinking, collaborated until they wrote as one.

Gasparini is a trickster and prestidigitator whose stage is the short story. He draws you in with a style that is deceptively straightforward, only to leave you astonished, patting yourself down, pockets empty of all those preconceptions and comfortable assumptions, and wondering how he did it.

Jim Christy, author of *The Redemption of Anna Dupree*

Provocative, earthy stories... Gasparini is able to coax the profound out of the banal.

Louise McKinney, author of *New Orleans: A Cultural History*

Gasparini's stories peel back the layers on the contemporary human condition.

Matthew Firth, *Ottawa Xpress*

Len Gasparini is the author of numerous books of poetry, including *The Broken World: Poems 1967-1998* and a collection for children, *I Once Had a Pet Praying Mantis*. He is the author of two previous story collections, *Blind Spot* and *A Demon in My View* (Guernica 2003), and a work of nonfiction, *Erase Me*, with photographs by Leslie Thomson. In 1990, he was awarded the F. G. Bressani Literary Prize for poetry. He lives in Toronto.



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