



The Journal of Experimental Fiction

PO Box 6281

Aurora, Illinois 60598

egerdes@experimentalfiction.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEF Books announces new novel by Jim Meirose!

AURORA, IL—February 4, 2019—JEF Books announces the publication of *Understanding Franklin Thompson*, the brilliant new novel by widely published and popular literary innovator Jim Meirose!

Middle-aged bachelor Franklin Thompson and his widowed Mother Audrey live together in a quiet small town. But their lives are periodically marred by the repeated attacks of a horrid mental disorder which they share. These attacks strike without warning and drive them apart into separate realities, in which they are made to believe that they will never see each other again. Panic-stricken, they fight the attacks tooth and nail to return to the world where they are again together. They repeat the behaviors which have delivered them from prior attacks. Audrey begins obsessively praying for help to the denizens of a mystically chaotic parallel world which she only is aware of during her delusion. Franklin abandons the apartment and storms frantically through town, pleading to all he encounters to help him find his mother. Along the way he endures the mockery, scorn, and general cruelty of the townspeople. They tolerate his presence, viewing him as a somewhat humorous, harmless town character, albeit incurably and pitifully insane. This novel documents their experience in enduring one such attack.

To read only one of Jim Meirose's novels is to miss out on the scope and depth of his surreal vision. But Understanding Franklin Thompson is a great place to start. Meirose takes a spare, foundational myth of our culture and populates it with people as desperate as the protagonist in the original story. He shows the concerns and flaws of humanity unchanged over 2,000 years, and yet demonstrates how they have been amplified and distorted to the detriment of our civilization. When you try to understand Franklin Thompson, you will have to comprehend the struggle that is everyday life for your neighbors as well as your enemies. And you will never think about so many things—Chinese food, working for a living, the cop on the beat, the lessons of object permanence in adults and children—the same way again.

—**Jane Rosenberg LaForge**, author of *An Unsuitable Princess* and *The Hawkman: A Fairy Tale of the Great War*

Jim Meirose is a writer of distinctive voice and vision. In Understanding Franklin Thompson he dissects the Christian ethic through lives peeking out of their personal shells into a dark fractured crystal to a chaotic reality. As they are overwhelmed by their personal issues, they try to connect multiple points of view, only to find a deeper descent into confusion. A unique, thought provoking work.

—**Richard S. Bailey**, author of *Off on a Tangent* and *Tiresias Lies: The Insidious Plot of the Men with No Left Shoe*

Jim Meirose's short and long works have appeared in numerous publications, including *South Carolina Review*, *Xavier Review*, *Phoebe*, *Baltimore Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *American Literary Review*, *34th Parallel*, *14 Hills*, *Witness*, *Le Scat Noir*, & many others. Further info: www.jimmeirose.com.

ABOUT JEF: Founded in 1986, *The Journal of Experimental Fiction* is the English language's pre-eminent source for innovative fiction. **Contact:** Eckhard Gerdes, editor & publisher, egerdes@experimentalfiction.com. **Site:** www.experimentalfiction.com