



GLORY DAYS

MELISSA FRATERRIGO

FLYOVER FICTION SERIES < RON HANSEN EDITOR <

"Melissa Fraterrigo's novel strikes with the unexpected force of a summer tornado. . . . Characters worthy of a Flannery O'Connor story struggle and self-medicate to make sense of lives marked by loss, violence, and despair. These characters yearn for one another, across time, even across death, and they take comfort in the past and in one another, however fragile their connections." —**BONNIE JO CAMPBELL**, National Book Award finalist and author of *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters*

"Spinning through a series of unforgettable characters, each lured by a sense of freedom, violence, or the need to belong, these stories surprise us, echo with significance, and draw together to paint a complicated portrait of a place about to be lost." —**MICHELLE HOOVER**, author of *The Quickening* and *Bottomland*

"Melissa Fraterrigo's stories are a powerful reminder of what it means to be human." —**FRANK BILL**, author of *Crimes in Southern Indiana*

The small plains town of Ingleside, Nebraska, is populated by down-on-their-luck ranchers and new money, ghosts and seers, drugs and greed, the haves and the have-nots. Lives ripple through each other to surprising effect, though the connections fluctuate between divisive gulfs and the most intimate closeness. At the center of this novel is the story of Teensy and his daughter, Luann, who face the loss of their land even as they mourn the death of Luann's mother. On the other end of the spectrum, some townspeople find enormous wealth when developers begin buying up acreages. When Glory Days—an amusement park—is erected, past and present collide, the attachment to the land is fully severed, and the invading culture ushers in even darker times.

In *Glory Days* Melissa Fraterrigo combines gritty realism with magical elements to paint an arrestingly stark portrait of the painful transitions of twenty-first-century, small-town America. She interweaves a slate of gripping characters to reveal deeper truths about our times and how the new landscape of one culture can be the ruin of another.



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MELISSA FRATERRIGO is the founder and executive director of the Lafayette Writers' Studio in Lafayette, Indiana. She is the author of a collection of short fiction, *The Longest Pregnancy*.

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FRATERRIGO.

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NEBRASKA

GLORY DAYS

MELISSA FRATERRIGO

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“Melissa Fraterrigo’s novel strikes with the unexpected force of a summer tornado. It’s a marvel as gritty as the carnival at the edge of her fictional rural town of Ingleside, where characters worthy of a Flannery O’Connor story struggle and self-medicate to make sense of lives marked by loss, violence, and despair. Fraterrigo is as much a seer as her trompe l’oeil Fredonia the Great, who aches when she must reveal the truth. Fredonia tells her estranged daughter, ‘Honey, I’ll help you work toward any dream that you have. But this. This is not a dream. Laying hands is a job.’ These characters yearn for one another, across time, even across death, and they take comfort in the past and in one another, however fragile their connections.”

BONNIE JO CAMPBELL, National Book Award finalist
and author of *Mothers*, *Tell Your Daughters*

“Melissa Fraterrigo’s people will brand an impression upon your soul. *Glory Days* is a heartbreaking cliff dive into a literary voice that stomps across the Midwest. She knows her land and its people, their struggles, conflicts, ways of survival and ruin, but most of all the roots to family, and wanting to escape that family. Her people are forever stained by their upbringing, memories, and consequences of choice. Melissa’s stories are a powerful reminder of what it means to be human.”

FRANK BILL, author of *Crimes in Southern Indiana*

"*Glory Days* is a tender and tragic portrayal of small-town life, filled with beautifully flawed characters whose voices are unforgettable. From this fascinating cast, we hear about the economic trials of farming, the realities of poverty, the solace of land. From calving season to an amusement park, this novel takes us on a journey that's told with generosity of spirit and a true tenderness for the land and people. A beautiful book."

LAURA PRITCHETT, author of *Stars Go Blue*

"Melissa Fraterrigo's *Glory Days* presents a world of ghosts and seers, the living and the dead, bound together in a small farming community at the crossroads of tradition and the most cavalier of progress. Spinning through a series of unforgettable characters, each lured by a sense of freedom, violence, or the need to belong, these stories surprise us, echo with significance, and draw together to paint a complicated portrait of a place about to be lost."

MICHELLE HOOVER, author of *The Quickening* and *Bottomland*

GLORY DAYS

Flyover Fiction

SERIES EDITOR: *Ron Hansen*

For Estelle and Josephine

I think it was from the animals
that St. Francis learned
it is possible to cast yourself
on the earth's good mercy and live.

JANE HIRSHFIELD

Acknowledgments

This book is the result of the support and insight of many individuals.

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