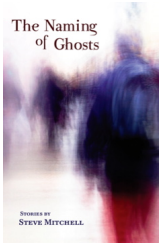
The Naming
of Ghosts
Stories by
Steve Mitchell

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"Steven Mitchell's lyrical prose and beautifully crafted stories haunt the reader long after the final pages. His characters are so full and fascinating, and the urgency of their need to connect is so strong. Poignant, inspiring, and compelling, Steve Mitchell's "The Naming of Ghosts" is the finest collection of stories out there."
--Frances Badgett, *Contrary Magazine*

"What I admire most about Steve Mitchell's stories is the sheer beauty of his melancholic prose. His voice is outstanding and will stay with you for a long time after you finish his book."
—Peter H. Fogtdal, author of *The Tsar's Dwarf*

"Steve Mitchell's stories seem to play out in dimensions that fluidly interconnect our palpable and dreamy selves. Whether they "stroke waves of heat into [our] flesh" as in "Dandelion," or happen "when the world had darkened so deeply that only tears, and more tears, would soften it at all" as in "Wave," we often arrive at

transformation without conscious knowledge of how we were transported. Mitchell's storytelling is remarkable in its hypnotic rhythms, in the unique voice. Story after story in The Naming of Ghosts stays with us long after the ending. This is an impressive collection that must be read, and read again."

- Alexander Pepple, Editor of *Able Muse* and *Able Muse Anthology*

Steve Mitchell has been a construction worker, cowboy, substitute teacher, chef, and has developed and managed a mental health program for the chronic mentally ill. He's worked in theatre, film, and multi-voice poetry. His work has been published in the *Southeast Review*, *Co ntrary*
,
Glossolalia
, and
The North Carolina Literary Review
, among others, and has been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. His short story, “Above the Rooftop,” was named a
storySouth
Million Writers Award Notable Story of 2010, and he is currently completing a novel,
Body of Trust
. He has a deep belief in the primacy of doubt and an abiding conviction that great wisdom can inhabit very bad movies. He has an ambivalent relationship with his cat, Mr. Zip. Sometimes, he just doesn't know. And that's all right.