

*Listen and Other Stories* / Liam Callanan

April 2015

**PRESS RELEASE:** Four Way Books announces the publication of *Listen and Other Stories* by Liam Callanan. Publicity measures include readings, conference & festival appearances, and radio appearances. For information, e-mail [publicity@fourwaybooks.com](mailto:publicity@fourwaybooks.com)

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*Listen and Other Stories* is a book where characters ask readers to do just that: listen to their stories, especially because many aren't the type of people who often get listened to—even though they should be. These characters' trials, missed connections, and sundry challenges are full of surprises—some good, some bad, some funny, some wise, and some all this at once. Even more surprising, there's tenderness here and a lot of heart—which often gets the collection's characters into a lot of trouble.



from *The Bear Hunter*

Eddie had fought hard. At least for a little while, at least as long as he thought it was just some of the other guys messing with his tent, trying to poke and punch him through the thin nylon shell. He was the new boy; he could have expected this, especially because he had a hoard of candy that he wasn't sharing. But now the hoard was gone. The bear had eaten some, scattered the rest, and wandered off, as if bored by all the blood, which fascinated me. I know that's a strange word to use, *fascinated*, but I was, I am, at how empty and motionless that boy was. I don't mean Eddie. I mean the kid next to him. I mean me.

Publication Date: April 2015 • 978-1-935536-54-3 • Fiction • \$17.95 • Paper, 308 pages • 6 x 9

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### Advance Praise for *Listen and Other Stories*

“What a wide-ranging, inventive collection Liam Callanan has given us. In page after page, he conjures striking characters and places—recent and historical, domestic and foreign—that quickly grow visceral and real. Listen to these lovely stories, indeed; each one is memorable, and each one different from the last.”  
—**Alix Ohlin**

“Over and over Callanan finds that moment when a character’s past, their deepest longings, their most intimate fears, emerge from the flood-waters of daily life and stand exposed. These richly imagined and beautifully written stories transport the reader from TV studios to lonely woods, from an old convent to a new gym, from war-time Alaska to the beach at Santa Monica. The result is a wonderfully readable and hugely pleasurable collection.”  
—**Margot Livesey**

“Here is what makes these stories necessary and timeless: Liam Callanan’s incisive ability to render not just our desires and the choices we make to fulfill or thwart those desires, but the mystery *behind* those choices. These stories glow, backlit by the author’s generous and discriminating vision, his ability to contrast doubt and faith in our actions and interactions, all in the service of an abiding grace. And lest all of the above sound unduly serious, let me assure you: there is humor here of the most vital stripe, wherein halfway through your laughter you realize you’re laughing not only at the characters, but at your own foolish, if well-intentioned, ways.”  
—**Michael Parker**



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Liam Callanan is the author of the novels *The Cloud Atlas*, a finalist for an Edgar Award, and *All Saints*, a Target Bookmarked Breakout book. A frequent public radio essayist, Liam has taught at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers. Born in Washington, DC, and raised in Los Angeles, he now calls Wisconsin home. He’s on the web at [liamcallanan.com](http://liamcallanan.com).

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