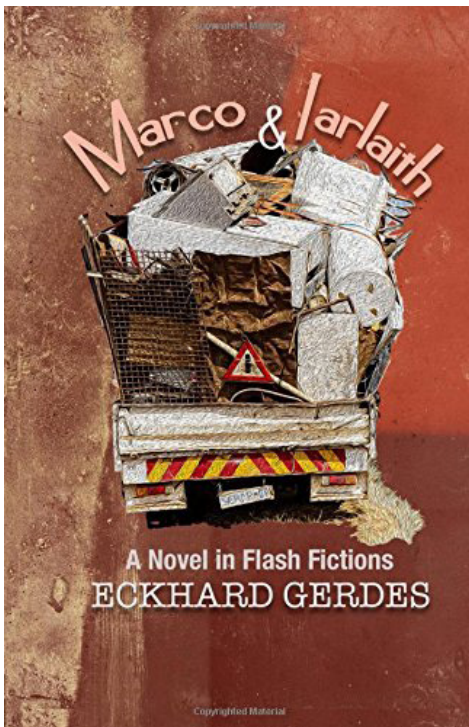


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a novel in Flash Fictions

by Eckhard Gerdes

Iarlaith and Marco are father and son, living along the banks of a river in a run-down cottage. Neither is employed full-time. Iarlaith works in a foundry sorting rudimentary fonts into upper and lower cases. Marco collects trash from along the riverbank, finding flotsam and rubbish discarded by tourists who use the riverbank as their jogging path. From this, Marco builds assemblage sculptures, which tourists buy from the local consignment shop. These are stories from their marginal existence, in which getting into trouble is as easy as doing nothing.

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Eckhard Gerdes has published books of poetry, drama, and fourteen novels, including *Hugh Moore* and *My Landlady the Lobotomist*. He has won an &NOW Award, the Richard Pike Bissell Award, been a finalist for the Starckone and the Blatt awards, and was nominated for Georgia Author of the Year. His most recent books include a tongue-in-cheek work of creative nonfiction, *How to Read*, and a novel, *White Bungalows*. He is also editor and publisher of *The Journal of Experimental Fiction* and its associated imprint, JEF Books. He lives near Chicago and has three sons

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