

In this collection of Mormon short stories, a disaffected young woman burns her temple clothes while dancing to an old pop song. A teenage boy worried about the future of the planet prays for God to send a devastating plague on humans. An eager polygamist endures a miserable wedding night with his multiple wives. A government assassin tries to incorporate Blood Atonement into his work. A youth outing reenacting the Mormon Handcart trek goes terribly wrong. A rebellious college graduate gets a tattoo on her back—of the Plan of Salvation. A zealous restaurant worker devises a horrifying plan to force customers to obey the Word of Wisdom. Millions of Latter-day Saints apostatize by joining the Republican religion.

Johnny Townsend has published stories and essays in *Newsday*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Humanist*, *The Progressive*, *Medical Reform*, *Christopher Street*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Glimmer Train*, *Sunstone*, *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, in the anthologies *Off the Rocks*, *Queer Fish*, *In Our Lovely Deseret: Mormon Fictions*, *Latter-Gay Saints*, and in many other publications. His books *The Abominable Gayman*, *Marginal Mormons*, and *The Mormon Victorian Society* were named to Kirkus Reviews' Best of 2011, 2012, and 2013.

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Behind the Zion Curtain

JOHNNY TOWNSEND

Behind the Zion Curtain

Stories of Unorthodox Mormons



JOHNNY TOWNSEND

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