In this collection of Mormon short stories, a missionary in Italy makes a break for freedom on Christmas. A youth outing for priests at a shooting range doesn't go as planned. Mormons create a theocracy in America and rename the country Zion. An unhappy sister missionary in New Orleans wonders just what her calling to serve really entails. A conflicted father wonders how to deal with a transgender son who wants to be his daughter. A white woman struggles with the racist atmosphere in her workplace. A bishop devises a novel method to make sure his congregants pass Tithing Settlement. Parents hire men to pose as the Three Nephites to teach their children the Book of Mormon is true. Ex-Mormons unwelcome at home for Christmas band together for their own holiday celebration.

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, The Mormon Victorian Society,* and *Dragons of the Book of Mormon* were named to Kirkus Reviews' Best of 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Lying for the Lord

When the truth alone isn't good enough

Johnny Townsend

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216 mm x 140 mm

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