

My home is full of books. I am now pleased to add John Wentworth's first collection of short stories to my library. What we have here is a quirky peek into the complexities of human interactions and relationships. Thanks to our hundreds of hours of conversation at the Esquire Lounge in Champaign, Illinois, I have grown to know Johnnie pretty damn well—but after reading his stories I feel I know him a little better. All art is autobiography. Fiction writers simply hide themselves between the lines. The 23 short stories here reveal a curious student of human nature. Why are we who we are? Johnnie would not claim to know the answer, but he is clearly intrigued by the question.

—Bruce B. Suttle, Parkland College; February 2025

## Pawleys June 2014



*And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.*

Ecclesiastes 1:17