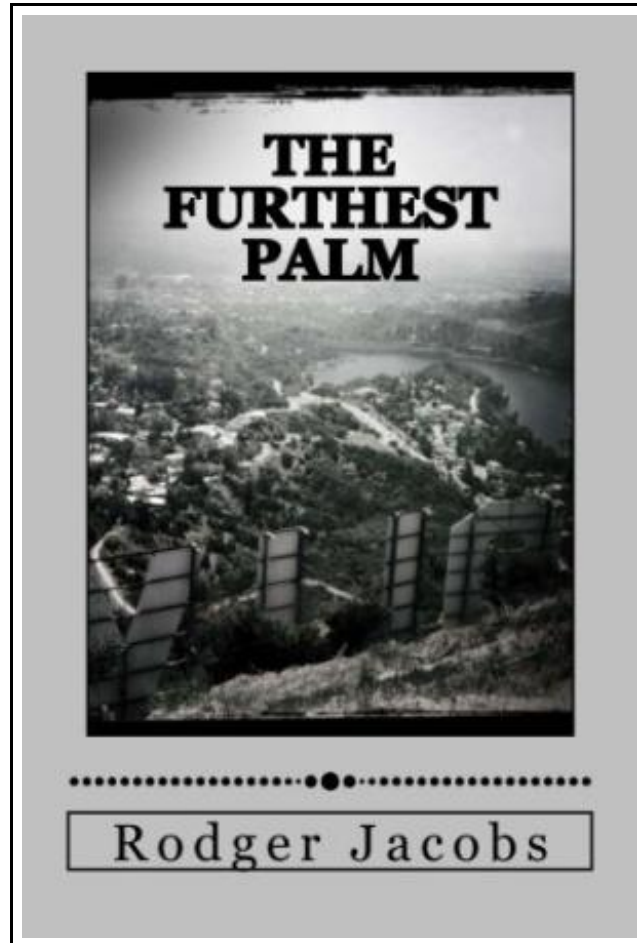


## The Furthest Palm: The Trace Stories



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***(Alec Langosh)***

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Silver Birch Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 292 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. The Furthest Palm is an urban novel shaped as a series of disjointed short stories held together by tone, perception, and the single-named protagonist, Trace, a loner navigating the savage streets of Los Angeles, whose best friends are Jack Daniels, Potters vodka, his 1948 Packard, and three women -- Lisa, Amy, and ex-wife Josephine. Trace is a writer-for-hire, a lifestyle choice that puts him in constant contact with those who live under the vaporous cloud of wretched hopelessness that is at the core of the rotten L. A. promise. His L. A. is one of drumming rainstorms, raging brushfires, cloying hangovers aggravated by the crackling desperation of marginalized low-budget movie producers, meth-addicted hustlers and con men, a one-armed stripper, taco shop poets, serial killers and cannibals, overcrowded Urgent Care clinics, toxic red tides in the Santa Monica Bay, psychopathic stalkers, and a victim of spontaneous combustion. Trace's adventures are mirrored by those of his own fictional alter ego, Dan Knight, a tough-talking, gun-toting P. I. who resolves every conflict, major and minor, with his own brand of bullet-riddled Social Darwinism. Hovering in the background of The Furthest Palm are the ghosts of Chester Himes, Sam Peckinpah, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. By the time we arrive at the shattering epilogue, Trace himself dissolves into his own mythology. Im drawn to The Furthest Palm and the adventures of Trace as he wanders through L. A. phenomena, particularly the blown-up pigeon and his dilemma with dwarfs, as well as the Kafka-like episode with the cop, and, of course, Josephine, and all the details of L. A. , the dinner and the film and scribbler encounters, the curse of survival. Rudy Wurlitzer, author of Quake and Pat Garrett and...

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