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The Jokes

By Stephen Thomas

BOOK THUG, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 203 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. We sit, hunched over the words that appear on our smartphone screens, altogether unaware of the story of our lives that is going on around us, even as we focus on the minutiae of our social media friends daily activities. These are the stories that draw our undivided attention, and these are the types of deftly observed, wholly engrossing narratives that make up Stephen Thomas s debut flash-fiction collection, *The Jokes*. Presented in the form of a most common present-tense--as a series of moments in a social-media-like feed --this collection of very short stories riffs on the form of the joke, but as this might be understood by the best culture-critical comedians of our time: Andy Kaufman, Stephen Wright, Norm McDonald, Jon Stewart, Richard Pryor. And much like those stand-up artists who sanctified the joke-form, these stories deal with sometimes-intense subjects, yet with a kind of SSRI-like placidity that allows readers to cling to each word as the narratives unfold. In drawing comparisons to Lydia Davis s creatively detached but inventively curious writing, Thomas s *The Jokes* is a book for...



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