**Bio:**

**Sharon Solwitz's** collection of stories, *Blood and Milk*, won the Carl Sandburg Prize from Friends of the Chicago Public Library, the prize for adult fiction from the Society of Midland Authors, and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. Awards for her individual stories, published in such magazines as *TriQuarterly, Mademoiselle*, and *Ploughshares*, include the Pushcart Prize, the Katherine Anne Porter Prize, the Nelson Algren, and first prize from *Moment Magazine* and the *American Literary Review*. A story of hers was reprinted in *Best American Short Stories 2012* and another was selected for *Best American Short Stories 2016.*  She teaches fiction at Purdue University and lives in Chicago with her husband, poet Barry Silesky.

Her novel *Once, in Lourdes* [Random House (Spiegel and Grau)] is scheduled for publication in August 2017

Her and Barry’s son Seth is scheduled to marry his fiancé Melissa Dunn in July, 2017.

**Excerpts from Reviews:**

***Blood and Milk***

***“***[In] *Blood and Milk* , Sharon Solwitz’s extraordinary first collection of short stories… her characters are brave, vulnerable, funny and totally recognizable. Reading the intimate details of their struggles—against breast cancer, parental violence, loneliness, adultery—is like snooping in the diaries of soldiers.” –*The Nation*

“Sharon Solwitz’s stunning first collection of short stories, “Blood and Milk,” has a three-dimensional quality. Her characters jump out at you, from a story in the funny, horny voice of a woman who works in a blood bank, to the final scene in “Milk,” in which a strip tease dancer, still nursing her twin sons, gets revenge on a leering spectator. –*Chicago Tribune*

“Women who are prickly, sharp-witted, and high-strung, who tend to quip about their emotional pain and to act self-destructively, are the protagonists of the 11 fine short stories in Solwitz’s first collection. . . . Most achieve insights the hard way—after independent, even rash actions that sometimes bring pain.”   —*Publishers Weekly*

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| "Solwitz's debut collection is trenchant and unnerving. She specializes in dislocation, dysfunction, and distress as she writes about the imperfect emotional fit between men and women, cultural displacement, and madness both personal and societal. . . . Indeed, as Solwitz traces the jagged edges of our collective soul, she reminds us that even home can become a foreign country." —Starred Review in *Booklist* |  |

"A flair for dark comedy and the ability to turn on a dime are prized qualities for these unpredictable characters; time and again, their intrepid investigations lead them into uncharted territory where bizarre dramatic action seems to be the only possible move. Solwitz's fine-toothed examinations of complex emotional states are dead on. . . . " —*The New York Times Book Review*

  “Sharon Solwitz’s first collection of short stories entertains, provokes, and haunts. . . . Readers wishing to race through the stories and simply enjoy them for their narrative style will be satisfied. Those who spend a little more time analyzing the recurring elements will find even more pleasure.” *--The San Francisco Bay Guardian*

"Sharon Solwitz has been winning short story prizes for years—it's about time we get to see all her characters gathered between covers. They are a lively and challenging crowd, full of intelligence, charm, and tendencies toward self-destruction and self-realization  that make them stunningly recognizable. Their complex lives pose emotional and moral  quandaries hard to dismiss and hard to put behind us at stories' end. Solwitz has wit, passion, and the remarkable ventriloquial skill to throw interior voices we might never  otherwise hear." —Rosellen Brown, author of *Before and After*

***Bloody Mary***

After her debut with the widely praised stories in Blood and Milk, Sharon Solwitz offers  up her first, darkly radiant, full-length novel. Bloody Mary, which takes its title from the childhood game, tells the story of socially adept, 12-year-old Hadley and her protective  mother. They live a privileged life in the Chicago neighborhood of Lakeview, but soon  find themselves in a state of chaos and flux. —Starred review in *Booklist*.