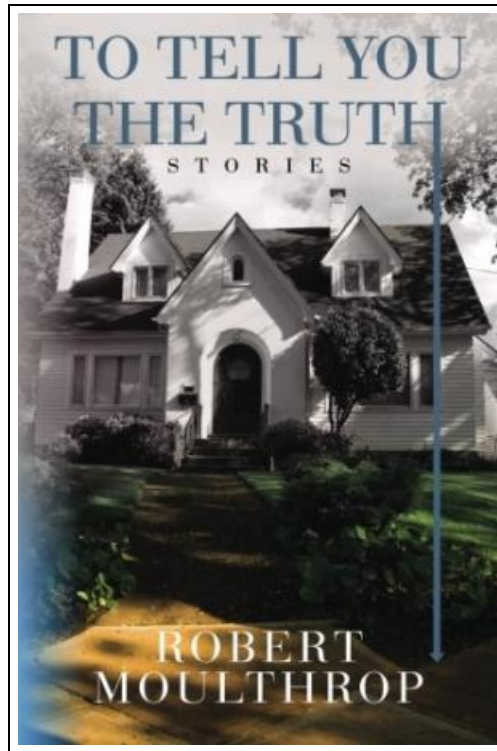


## To Tell You the Truth: Stories



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## TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH: STORIES



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Red Hanger Books, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. ForeWord Clarion Review 030114 \*\*\*\*(\*) Moulthrop draws moral human lessons from thoroughly believable people in this literary short story collection. Robert Moulthrop offers eleven short stories that function as neat windows of realism through which people of a certain age and class stumble down life s pathway. Moulthrop is a gifted, accomplished writer, published multiple times and with multiple awards. His characters are familiar-professors, business people-and sometimes muddling, sometimes confused, yet never worrying about bank balances or the next mortgage payment. Some, as in Sam in Where Are You?, one of the more emotionally affecting stories, know themselves not at all. Here, Moulthrop definitively frames a man s loss of perceived self with a narrative, winding through memory, conversation, and dialogue. Sam is a man readers know, or think they know, until a climatic revelation fractures every perception. The story s pace, expansion, and climax are superb. Moulthrop s artful observations work well in the title story, in which a woman s friend leaves her husband. The focus on a minor detail, the narrator s love of ironing- I was good at it, the same way some people are good at bookkeeping -reveals character, place, and status. The author s technique will satisfy aficionados of realistic short fiction, particularly his ability to draw moral and ethical lessons from thoroughly believable scenarios, situations, and people. Moulthrop s settings are indefinite, generally eastern or midwestern by inference, but his plots require only what might be termed interior settings to be established; his characters feel truly in place, urban but not metropolitan, educated but not elite. Plots appear simple yet reveal conflict and character enlightenment. In the final story, Barzini to the Rescue,...



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