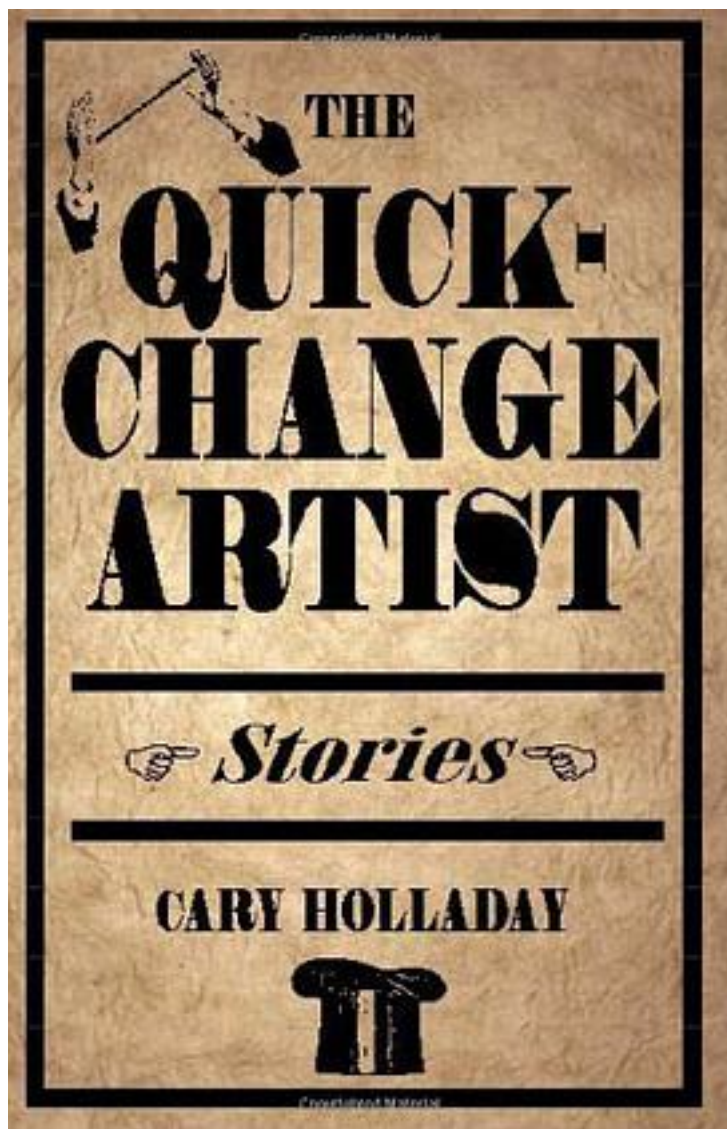


The Quick-Change Artist



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In these stories of magic and memory, clustered around a resort hotel in a small Virginia community, Cary Holladay takes the reader on an excursion through the changes wrought by time on the community and its visitors. From the quiet of a rural forest to the rhythms of rock and roll, *The Quick-Change Artist* is at once whimsical and hard-edged, dizzying in its matter-of-fact delivery of the fantastic. Romance, a sense of place and belonging, and the supernatural--especially in the lives of children coming of age--offer windows into worlds beyond the ordinary throughout *The Quick-Change Artist*. In the title story, a young chambermaid is in love with a foreign magician who performs at the hotel where she works. In "Heaven," set during the 1918 flu epidemic, a struggling mother and son rely on the support of their fortune-telling plow horse. The narrator of "Jane's Hat" recalls a childhood enlivened by an unusual school principal and a friend who starts finding beauty everywhere. Horses and the people who love them, wanderers and those who feed them, creatures that disappear and those who search for them: these are stories with a constant heart.

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