

BUILDING A BRIDGE: The Linked Story Collection & the Novel (Cara Blue Adams, Jonathan Escoffery, Sidik Fofana, Asako Serizawa, Kirstin Valdez Quade)

Cara Blue Adams is the author of *You Never Get It Back*, winner of the John Simmons Short Fiction Award, judged by Brandon Taylor. Her award-winning fiction appears in *Granta*, the *Kenyon Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and elsewhere. She is an associate professor at Seton Hall University.

Jonathan Escoffery is the author of *If I Survive You* (MCDxFSG '22). He is the recipient of the *Paris Review*'s Plimpton Prize, the ASME Award for Fiction, and a NEA fellowship. He is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and a doctoral fellow in USC's Creative Writing and Literature program.

Sidik Fofana received an MFA in Creative Writing from NYU and teaches public school in Brooklyn. His work has appeared in *Granta* and the *Sewanee Review*. His debut novel, *Stories from Our Tenants Downstairs*, is forthcoming from Scribner in the US and Hodder in the UK in August 2022.

Asako Serizawa is the author of *Inheritors*, which won the 2021 PEN/Open Book Award and the Story Prize Spotlight Award. She is a recipient of two O. Henry Prizes, a Pushcart Prize, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, and a fiction fellowship from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Kirstin Valdez Quade's story collection, *Night at the Fiestas* won the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard award, the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction, a 5 Under 35"award from the National Book Foundation, and was a finalist for the New York Public Library Young Lions Award. She is an assistant professor at Princeton.

Moderator introduces panel topic and panelists.

Each panelist speaks for roughly 3-5 minutes about the story collection as a form and their own approach to putting together a collection, addressing the following topics: what links your stories? How and when did you realize this in the process of putting together your book? What interlinked collections (or novels that can be read as collections) do you most admire and why?

Moderator asks questions:

1. The idea of collection, from Peter Ho Davies' "Only Collect," seems to me to be at the heart of this enterprise of building a book. What do you see yourself as collecting in your own work?
2. What do you see as the readerly and writerly challenges and rewards of writing a more loosely linked collection vs. a collection that is explicitly linked vs. a novel?
3. Sometimes one book can be called a collection or a novel: what changes as we shift the lens?
4. What is your advice for writers who are working to assemble their own collections: how might they approach identifying what they collect and thinking through form?

Panelists do Q&A with audience.