

READ ME

CB ANDERSON

FURTHER READINGS...



ABOUT CB...

A sixth-generation native of Maine, CB Anderson was born in Bangor and raised in a village on the Androscoggin River. She graduated from Cornell University with a degree in mathematics and from Boston University with an MS in Journalism. She lives with her family in Maine and Massachusetts where she teaches writing at Boston University.

Anderson has received numerous awards including the New Millennium Award and the Mark Twain Award for short fiction. Her stories have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *North American Review*, *Pleiades*, *Flash Fiction Forward* (W.W. Norton & Co.), *Literal Latte*, *The Masters Review* and elsewhere.

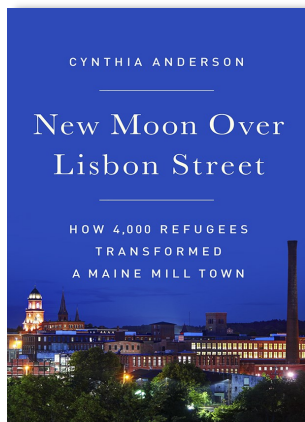
Described by Kirkus as “a triumphant, probing debut that promises both literary and mass appeal,” her short story collection, *River Talk* (C&R Press), received the 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Award for Short Stories and was named to *Kirkus Reviews*’ Best Books of 2014. *River Talk* also was a finalist for *Foreward Reviews*’ IndieFab Book of the Year Awards and Maine Literary Awards Best Fiction Book of 2015.

Anderson’s nonfiction has appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Redbook*, *Boston Magazine*, *usatoday.com*, *Huffington Post*, *Fourth Genre*, *The Miami Herald*, *Brevity* and elsewhere, and has twice been short-listed in *Best American Essays* (Houghton Mifflin). In addition to receiving a Prague Summer Seminars/AWP Fellowship, Anderson has been supported by residencies/scholarships at the Hedgebrook Colony, the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, Zyzzyva, and the Stonecoast Writers Conference.

COMING SOON...

In *New Moon Over Lisbon Street*, award-winning author CB Anderson tells the story of new immigrants forging lives in Lewiston, Maine—the challenges and triumphs, and the city’s transformation.

(Forthcoming from Perseus Public Affairs.)



OTHER WORKS BY CB...

NONFICTION

Of Carpenters and Scrabble Kings (feature)
Dreams Deferred (feature), *The Christian Science Monitor*
What Would Ada Say (essay), *Huffington Post*

FICTION

Transfinitude (story)
Ghost, *The Masters Review*

RECOMMENDED READINGS...

Mavis Gallant: *Paris Stories*

Flannery O’Connor: *The Complete Stories*

Andre Dubus: *Selected Stories*

Kent Haruf: *Plainsong*

Celeste Ng: *Little Fires Everywhere*

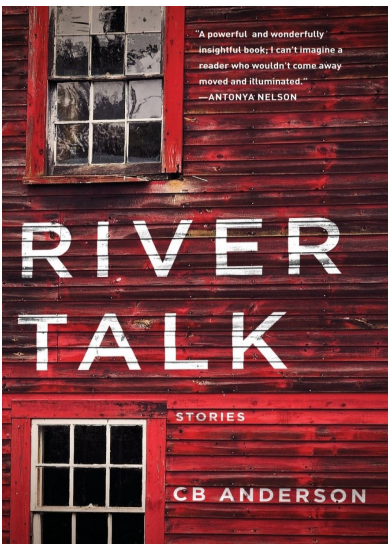
Willa Cather: *My Antonia*



READ ME 2018



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Some of Anderson’s characters are haunted by the circumstances of their lives. Which characters do you think triumph? Which remain trapped. Why?
- What role do rivers play in Anderson’s stories? Observer? Absolver? Healer?
- Anderson tells the stories of devoted, ambivalent, and absent parents. How did you respond to the various parents in the book?
- In *River Talk’s* third-person stories, what is the difference between the narrator’s voice and the voices of individual characters?
- In what ways does the Maine landscape serve as a character in *River Talk*?
- “China Falls”: Do you think Jeanine’s relationships with her children change by the end of the story? If so, how?
- “Pipe”: How does the protagonist react when the man on her crew harasses her? Does the #MeToo movement influence your interpretation of this part of the story?
- “Mavak Tov”: Ranya senses the Holy Spirit as a warm, anchoring presence that comes and goes. What have your experiences of a higher power felt like?
- “River Talk”: Ena describes a piece of graphite that healed into her hand as a child. Do you think wounds need to be brought to the surface for people to heal and move on?
- “Two Falls”: Do you think people should always show gratitude in exchange for charity?