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AUTHOR MORGAN TALTY
at
LEFT BANK BOOKS

Left Bank Books invites the public to a free talk and book signing by highly acclaimed debut novelist Morgan Talty, author of the newly released collection of stories, ***NIGHT of the LIVING REZ***, on Wednesday, September 7 at 6 p.m. Reservations, which are strongly recommended, can be made by calling the bookshop (207.338.9009) or emailing: info@leftbankbookshop.com.

In twelve striking, luminescent stories, Talty—with searing humor, abiding compassion, and deep insight—breathes life into tales of family and a community as they struggle with a painful past and an uncertain future. Set in Maine on the Penobscot Indian National reservation where Talty was raised, the stories are held together by David, a Penobscot boy who lives on the rez. ***NIGHT of the LIVING REZ*** has received unanimous and widespread reviews. The *New York Times* lauds Talty’s “fresh, irreverent prose,” and writes that he “has assured himself a spot in the canon of great Native American literature.”

Talty’s stories are sad, tragic, humorous. He has said that, although he writes a lot about difficult and painful issues “too much of something can be hard to handle. That’s where humor comes in. In my work, humor is partly about easing the pain that readers may feel for these characters, but it’s also, I think, sort of in my DNA. There’s a lot in this book that is personal, and humor was a big part of my coping with the difficulties my family and I experienced.”

NIGHT of the LIVING REZ was named to the “Best Books of Summer 2022” lists by the *New York Times* and *Good Housekeeping*; it was a “Most Anticipated” book on LitHub; and Talty was cited as a “Writer to Watch” by *Publishers Weekly*.

Esquire magazine writes that, “in one standout story, two friends, inspired by Antiques Roadshow, stage a heist at the tribal museum; in another, a grandmother suffering from dementia mistakes her grandson for her dead brother, believing that he’s come back to life. . . . *Night of the Living Rez* is proof that Talty is an important new writer to watch.”

Talty's work has appeared in *Granta*, *The Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, *TriQuarterly*, *Narrative Magazine*, LitHub, and elsewhere. A winner of the 2021 Narrative Prize, his work has been supported by the Elizabeth George Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts. Talty is an Assistant Professor of English in Creative Writing and Native American and contemporary Literature at the University of Maine, Orono, and is on the faculty at the Stonecoast MFA in creative writing as well as the Institute of American Indian Arts. Talty is also a Prose Editor at *The Massachusetts Review*. He lives in Levant, Maine.

Copies of *Night of the Living Rez* (\$16.95) are available for purchase at Left Bank Books. The shop is located in downtown Belfast at 109 Church Street. There's ample free parking in front of the shop and in an adjacent city lot.

**BELFAST AUTHOR
ELIZABETH GARBER
RELEASES NEW MEMOIR**

Left Bank Books and the Belfast Free Library invite the public to celebrate the launch of Elizabeth Garber's memoir, ***SAILING at the EDGE of DISASTER: A MEMOIR of a YOUNG WOMAN'S DARING YEAR***, at the library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13. Reservations, which are strongly recommended for this free event, can be made by calling (207.338.9009) or emailing Left Bank Books (info@leftbankbookshop). Garber's talk will be recorded and available to view on BCTV and the library's YouTube Channel.

In 1971, Garber's domineering father announced he was sending his "problem children"—seventeen-year-old bookish Elizabeth and her fourteen-year-old brother Woodie—to a school on a sailing ship, so they would "shape up and learn to work." ***SAILING at the EDGE of DISASTER*** is the story of Garber's time on board a once-majestic yacht-turned-sailing school along with her brother and 50 high school misfits. They have no idea what dangers await them. They learn to splice, climb the rigging, and survive an act of piracy, a storm at sea, a near-sinking, and being held hostage for two weeks by armed gun boats in Panama. The book chronicles a transformative year in the throes of late adolescence that leads to courage, grace, and a reclamation of selfhood.

"This book is a beautiful, high-stakes coming of age tale about survival on an old square-sailed rigger. It's also a vivid, stirring reminder that. . . the natural world will reduce us to our most elemental selves and allow us to finally see and know who we are."

—Susan Conley, author of *Landslide*

Garber's memoir follows the journey of Oceanics School students and faculty as they motor their limping ship—the once-magnificent yacht formerly owned by General Post heiress, socialite, and philanthropist Marjorie Merriweather Post—out of Miami to begin the grand itinerary their charismatic 25-year-old school director envisioned. As the voyage unfolds, Garber discovers the rigors, joys, and triumphs of being at sea. Her book chronicles a transformative year in the throes of late adolescence that leads to courage, grace, and a reclamation of selfhood.

Gregory Brown, author of *The Lowering Days*, writes that Garber's book "absolutely swept me away. Profoundly observed, richly alive with the rhythms of the sea and young adulthood, and outrageously funny. . . .Perhaps the most powerful lesson: sometimes you have to risk it all to truly find yourself. This is a book that lives in the space where adventure, heartache, and possibility collide."

Garber is also the author of *Implosion: A Memoir of an Architect's Daughter*, three books of poetry, and *Maine (Island Time)*, a collaboration of her poetry with paintings and photographs of Michael Weymouth. Her essays and excerpts have appeared in *Salon*, *Maine Homes*, *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, and her poems have been included in several journals and anthologies. She received an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Program, was awarded writing fellowships at Virginia Center for Creative Arts and Jentel Artist Residency, and received a BA in Humanities from Johns Hopkins and a Masters in Acupuncture from the Traditional Acupuncture Institute. She has maintained a private practice as an acupuncturist for nearly forty years in mid-coast Maine, where she raised her family.

The Belfast Free Library is located in downtown Belfast at 106 High Street. Copies of ***SAILING at the EDGE of DISASTER*** (\$24.95), which go on sale on the day of the event, are available now for pre-order at the bookshop.

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