



Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award)

Jim Tomlinson

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The stories in *Things Kept, Things Left Behind* explore the ambiguities of kept secrets, the tangles of abandoned pasts, and uneasy accommodations. Jim Tomlinson's characters each face the desire to reclaim dreams left behind, along with something of the dreamer that was also lost. Starkly rendered, these spiraling characters inhabit a specific place and class---small-town Kentucky, working-class America---but the stories, told in all their humor and tragedy, are universal. In each story the characters face conflict, sometimes within themselves, sometimes with each other. Each carries a past and with it an urge to return and repair. In "First Husband, First Wife," ex-spouses are repeatedly drawn together by a shared history they cannot seem to escape, and they are finally forced to choose between leaving the past or leaving each other. LeAnn and Cass are grown sisters who conspire to help their prideful mother in "Things Kept." "Prologue" is a voyeuristic journey through the surprisingly different lives of two star-crossed friends, each with its successes and pitfalls, told through their letters over thirty-five years. In "Stainless," Annie and Warren divide their possessions on the final night of their marriage. Their realtor has advised them to "declutter" the house they are leaving, but they discover that most of the clutter cannot be so easily removed. The choices are never simple, and for every thing kept, something must be abandoned. Tomlinson's characters struggle but eventually find their way, often unknowingly, to points of departure, to places where things just might change.

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This Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) without we understand teach the one who reading through it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) having good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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Carmen Helton:

Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Things Kept, Things Left Behind (Iowa Short Fiction Award) yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

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