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Steven Sherrill's New Novel Witnesses the Dismantling of the American Dream
*LSU Press to Publish **Joy, PA** in February 2015*

Baton Rouge—A darkly insightful evocation of the post-industrial era from the author of *The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break*, **Joy, PA** tells the story of a family teetering on the precipice of ruin. The Augenbaughs live in a broken and decaying town where the last vestiges of country-club wealth run up against the terrible realities of working-class poverty. Abigail, a fervent believer in the apocalyptic teachings of a radio preacher, is desperate to save her son from Judgment Day as she readies herself for the Rapture—due to arrive in just a few days. Her husband, Burns, has moved to the basement to live out his days in a medicated stupor, unable to cope with memories of his service in Iraq. Caught between the suffering of his mother and father, ten-year-old Willie fights the inherited demons that have savaged his parents' tenuous grasp on reality.

The somber drama surrounding the Augenbaughs plays out with a piercing and commanding lyrical beauty. The newest entry in LSU Press's renowned Yellow Shoe Fiction series, **Steven Sherrill's** empathetic portrait of alienation elicits hope and sympathy amidst shattered but no-less-dignified lives.

STEVEN SHERRILL, associate professor of English and integrative arts at Penn State, Altoona, is the author of *The Minotaur Takes a Cigarette Break*, published in 2000 and translated into eight languages; *Visits from the Drowned Girl*; and *The Locktender's House*. His collection of poems, *Ersatz Anatomy*, was published in 2010.

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