



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Keegan
225.578.6453 / jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu

A Boy's Book of Nervous Breakdowns
New Short Story Collection from Prize-Winning Author Tom Paine

Baton Rouge—The insightful and provocative stories in Tom Paine's *A Boy's Book of Nervous Breakdowns*, to be published in October by LSU Press, spring from a series of seismic events that rocked the post-millennium world. News headlines from the last decade—the fall of Baghdad, the Occupy Wall Street movement, and the BP oil spill—not only inspire the settings but also raise ethical questions that percolate throughout this ominous and timely work.

A stark reminder of the challenges and resultant anxiety facing a global society, *A Boy's Book of Nervous Breakdowns* depicts the simultaneously dreamlike and brutally real experience of witnessing contemporary political and environmental catastrophes. Paine approaches the second U.S. invasion of Iraq through the eyes of a CBS radio journalist and her desperate Iraqi translator as they report the opening months of the attack and dodge danger with a newborn in tow. In other stories, a father blames global warming for the drowning death of his daughter and journeys by horseback across the last of the Montana glaciers; a Japanese reggae band struggles under the radioactive umbrella of the Fukushima nuclear disaster; and a genius at Goldman Sachs invents a money-making algorithm, then ends his days with a tribe of headhunters in the Amazon.

Paine masterfully orchestrates these episodic depictions of a failing civilization, however unnerving, through a wide array of perspectives, each tied to the other by Cassandra-like prophecies. Immediately compelling, *A Boy's Book of Nervous Breakdowns* confronts the harsh realities of our time with imaginative and moving vignettes that reinforce the fragility, greed, and heartache of the human condition.

Tom Paine, author of *The Pearl of Kuwait* and *Scar Vegas*, is associate professor in the MFA program at the University of New Hampshire. He has published work in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Zoetrope*, *Glimmer Train*, and *Story*, among others, and has been featured in anthologies for the O. Henry Awards, the Pushcart Prize, and *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best*.

October 2015
LSU Press Paperback Original
160 pages, 5½ x 8½
978-0-8071-6124-1
Paper \$22.50
Fiction

To request a review copy or set up an interview with the author,
please contact Jenny Keegan at jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu.

###