

TRUTH BE TOLD

FARBER

HIP POCKET PRESS

In **TRUTH BE TOLD: New & Collected Premortems**, Thomas Farber extends a career-long narrative impulse to cheerfully merciless conclusions. Reverberating with deceptive economy and relentless wit, his subversive brevities evoke French epigrammists, Zen koans, and the pithy wisdoms of Country music. Unflinching, these beyond-short stories insist on the saving grace of language, the consolations of (gallows) humor. Included here as well are the author's three essays appraising the qualities of his ten-year love affair with these retorts, repercussions & wrys.

With pungent wit and cynical insight worthy of Diogenes, Farber's epigrams cast a cold eye on contemporary manners, morals and mortality. His gimlet observations spare no one, least of all their author. A painfully accomplished performance."

—Stephen Kessler, author of *After Modigliani*

Tom Farber's **TRUTH BE TOLD** offers the sort of wicked pleasures to be found in Gustave Flaubert's *A Dictionary of Platitudes*; here the great fun is (un)leavened by some equally engaging, astute critical prose on the subject of the text: epigrams. The end.

—Binnie Kirshenbaum, author of *An Almost Perfect Moment*

Tom Farber's **TRUTH BE TOLD** does more than compact the world into the essence perceived by its idiosyncratic compositor. It also hints at an expansive hidden narrative of sex, death, joy and despair. In short, as the author presumably prefers all things, it may be an epigram masterpiece.

—Melvin Bukiet, author of *A Faker's Dozen*

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New & Collected Premortems

THOMAS FARBER