

VANISHING ACTS

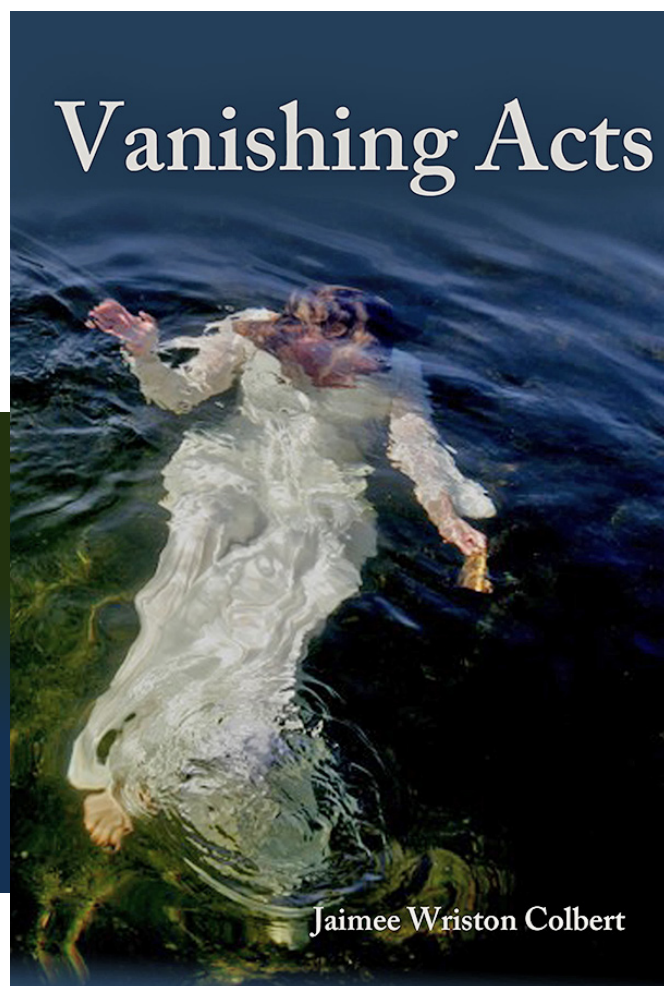
A novel by JAIMEE WRISTON COLBERT

Fomite Press, March 1, 2018

“*Vanishing Acts* dramatizes what doesn’t disappear: a mother’s love for her son and for her own mother, the wages of loyalty, the terror of abandonment, and the possibility of transformation. Jaimee Wriston Colbert’s fierce intelligence is at work in every sentence of this deeply felt novel about generational trauma.”

—Lee Upton, *The Tao of Humiliation and Visitations: Stories*

Vanishing Acts is the story of three generations of a troubled family, set in a Hawaii both fantastical and gritty. Shadowed by the Viet Nam War, addiction, and the perils of climate change, they grapple with the ghosts of their past and present, including a father whose love of surfing and obsession with Houdini helped him become the ultimate escape artist.



***Vanishing Acts* by Jaimee Wriston Colbert. Fiction.**

Fomite Press, March 1, 2018, \$15.95, 6" x 9", 322 pages

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Jaimee Wriston Colbert is the author of five previous books of fiction: *Wild Things*, a linked story collection longlisted for the Chautauqua Prize; the novel *Shark Girls*, finalist for the Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award; *Dream Lives of Butterflies*, gold medalist in the Independent Publisher Awards; *Climbing the God Tree*, winner of the Willa Cather Fiction Prize, and *Sex, Salvation and the Automobile*, winner of the Zephyr Prize. Her stories have appeared in such journals as *New Letters*, *The Gettysburg Review* and *Prairie Schooner*, and broadcast on “Selected Shorts.” Stories from *Wild Things* won the Ian MacMillan Fiction Prize, the Jane’s Stories Award and the Isotope Editor’s Prize. Originally from Hawaii, she lives in upstate New York where she is Professor of Creative Writing at SUNY, Binghamton University. Visit her website at www.jaimeewristoncolbert.com.



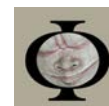
Author Photo, credit Marisa Wriston

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PRAISE FOR JAIMEE WRISTON COLBERT

***Vanishing Acts*, a novel**

“*Vanishing Acts* dramatizes what doesn’t disappear: a mother’s love for her son and for her own mother, the wages of loyalty, the terror of abandonment, and the possibility of transformation. Jaimee Wriston Colbert’s fierce intelligence is at work in every sentence of this deeply felt novel about generational trauma ... In this daring, beautifully executed novel Colbert shows us that whatever we imagined to be an illusion might be entirely real.”

—**Lee Upton**, *The Tao of Humiliation and Visitations: Stories*

“If serious writing attempts, as William Matthews says, ‘... to speak what it feels like to be human,’ then lucky the reader who discovers Jaimee Wriston Colbert’s *Vanishing Acts*, her characters as compassionately rendered as any I have encountered in a long time. As one of them muses, ‘...he should become an artist and try at least [to] *paint* this thing, color its painful truth so others could know it too.’ And now I do, having read this hauntingly beautiful novel, the prose, sentence by sentence, resonant and as deeply considered as the generational story it tells. I not only applaud its heart, and craft, and courage, I do so loudly, gratefully.”

—**Jack Driscoll**, *The Goat Fish and the Lover’s Knot* and *The World of a Few Minutes Ago*

***Wild Things*, Stories**

“Colbert has created a masterpiece of short stories in which the vulnerability of all life is exposed and loneliness reigns supreme ... An original collection of stories that captures the essence of what it is to be human in the 21st century.”

— **Katie James**, *American Book Review*

“Colbert’s divining sense of brokenness and our longing for wholeness makes for extraordinarily incisive, stirring, funny, and haunting all-American stories.”

—**Donna Seaman**, *Booklist*

“Brace yourself for Jaimee Wriston Colbert’s *Wild Things*. These linked rural noir stories unfold their wings near the Susquehanna River in a landscape graced by wildlife and haunted by lost prosperity ... Those left behind must navigate the meth labs and broken families and their own oversized yearning ... These characters sing their hunger and dance their hard-won wisdom. These brilliant, surprising stories defy gravity and take flight.”

—**Bonnie Jo Campbell**, *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters, Once Upon A River*, and
National Book Award finalist for *American Salvage*

“Jaimee Wriston Colbert has written a book of deeply affecting elegies to the scattered remnants of wilderness, the some few wild things we still live among: blackbird, brown trout, reef shark, teenage girl. By turns luminous and razor-sharp, in landscapes as diverse as a shimmering beach in Oahu and a crumbling mill town in upstate New York, these characters find comfort, not only in the “peace of wild things” but also in their scrap and bite, their tenacious urge toward survival in an absurdly hostile world.”

—**Pam Houston**, *Contents May Have Shifted* and *Cowboys Are My Weakness*

***Shark Girls*, a novel**

“Colbert has created an edgy and lush gothic tale laced with outlaw eroticism and barbed absurdities, and propelled by a powerful undertow racing beneath every alarming scene, bitterly funny moment, and strange twist of fate. From women battered and haunted to “throwaway kids,” rock-and-roll burnouts, and quixotic quests, Colbert summons a world as volatile as Hawaii itself, with its cycles of volcanic destruction and slow repair.”

—**Donna Seaman**, *Booklist* (Starred Review)

“Colbert’s *Shark Girls* is a mesmerizing novel, vibrant with eroticism, myth and mystery.”

— **Madison Smartt Bell**, *All Souls’ Rising*

***Climbing the God Tree*, Stories**

“The scope of Jaimee Wriston Colbert’s storytelling is impressive, with no fewer than 16 central characters delineated in intricately overlapping narratives ... The stories stand on their own as sensitive and unsentimental evocations of unrelieved loss.”

— *The New York Times Book Review*