

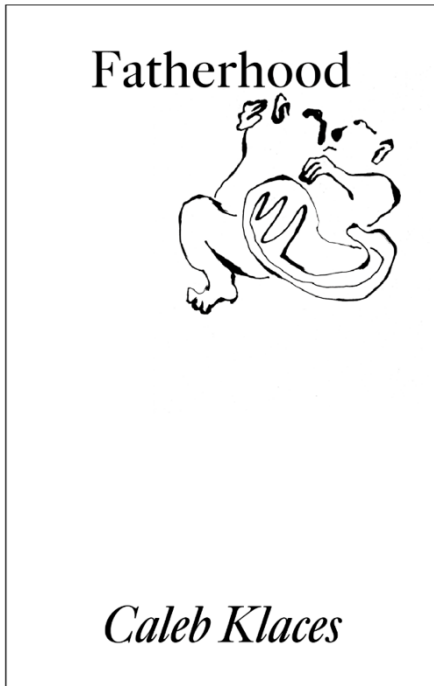
PRESS RELEASE: FICTION

Fatherhood

Caleb Klaces

Published: 4 November 2019
Price: £12.00 paperback | £5.99 e-book

'A brilliant, charming, and weirdly alarming poem-novel about the time-bending strangeness of being a parent. I love Caleb Klaces' writing.' – **Max Porter**



Fatherhood is the debut novel from award-winning poet Caleb Klaces, combining prose and poetry in a work of verse fiction.

Following the birth of their first child, a couple move out of the capital and into a house in the northern countryside, where they believe the narrator's great-grandfather, a Russian emigrant, was laid to rest. The father dedicates himself to parenting, writing and conversation with his dead ancestor, newly conscious of the ties that bind the present to the past.

It is a time of startling intimacies, baby-group small talk, train rides with pregnant squirrels, unexpected relationships and tender rhythms, when every clock seems to tell a different time, and the solidity of language is broken. As his daughter begins to speak, the father's gentleness turns to unexplainable rage. He begins to question who he must protect his child from – the outside world or himself. Their new house, the family discover, is built on a floodplain.

Moving between history, memory and autobiography, its shifting form captures a life and language split open by fatherhood. An experiment in rewriting masculinity, it asks how bodies can share both a house and a planet.

Caleb Klaces is the author of *Bottled Air* (2013), which won the Melita Hume Prize and an Eric Gregory Award, and two chapbooks, *All Safe All Well* (2011) and *Modern Version* (2018). Extracts from *Fatherhood* won a 2015 Northern Writers Award. He is Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature at York St John University, and runs the York Centre for Writing Poetry Series, which holds regular events on campus with BAME, queer, and working-class writers. He is also the father of two children.



Praise for *Fatherhood* by Caleb Klaces

‘A brilliant, charming, and weirdly alarming poem-novel about the time-bending strangeness of being a parent. I love Caleb Klaces’ writing.’

Max Porter, author of *Grief is the Thing with Feathers*

‘This writing is fierce and gorgeous. It is an antidote to ennui, the opposite of despair. I have never read something so alive.’

Katharine Kilalea, author of *OK, Mr Field*

About Prototype

Prototype was founded in 2019 by Jess Chandler, co-founder of the independent publishing houses Test Centre and House Sparrow Press.

Established to continue and develop the work begun by Test Centre, Prototype is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Through the discovery of high quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for experimental writing.

Fatherhood is the first title in Prototype’s new fiction list, establishing the aesthetic of a collectible series. Upcoming titles in the list include a short story collection by writer and translator Jen Calleja (recently shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize) and Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten.

Test Centre’s back catalogue includes works by Derek Jarman, Max Porter, Iain Sinclair, Sam Riviere, Sophie Collins, Jack Underwood, Rachael Allen, Stephen Watts, Wayne Holloway-Smith, Chris Torrance and Jonathan Meades.

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