

As a River
Debut Novel by Sion Dayson Explores Family Secrets
and the Fault Lines of Southern History

It's 1977. Bannen, Georgia, a small town nestled amid pine forests, is rife with contrasts: natural beauty and racial tension, small-town charm and long-term poverty. An unsettling place for a Black man who fled it years ago and has since traveled the world.

But Greer Michaels has to come home, to care for his dying mother.

And that means confronting family secrets rooted in the traumatic history of the segregated South.

Written in spare and lyrical prose, *As a River* moves back and forth across decades, evoking the mysterious play of memory as it touches upon shame and redemption, despair and connection. At its heart it's a novel about our struggles to understand each other, and the stories we tell ourselves in order to survive.

"Sion Dayson is a bright new talent, full of verve, bravery, and poetry. Read this incandescent novel and prepare to be mesmerized."

— Rene Denfeld, author of *The Child Finder*

"Testifies not only to the grim legacies of our national history, but to the resilience of individuals and communities who dare to love and dare to speak the truth."

—Naomi J. Williams, author of *Landfalls*

"With an eye for imagery and the fault lines of southern history, Dayson...draws compelling parallels between rural childhood and the forested landscape—its lushness and its dangers."

—Ravi Howard, author of *Driving the King*

Sion Dayson grew up in North Carolina and earned an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her work has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Utne Reader*, and many other venues, and her writings often focus on travel, living abroad, and her literary hero, James Baldwin. Her popular blog *paris (im)perfect* explored the City of Light's less glamorous side. After a decade in Paris, she now resides in Valencia, Spain.

Jaded Ibis is a feminist press committed to publishing socially engaged literature with an emphasis on the voices of people of color.

As a River
a novel
by Sion Dayson

Publication date
September 3, 2019

ISBN
978-1-938841-10-1

218 pages
\$17.99, paper

Category
literary fiction



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