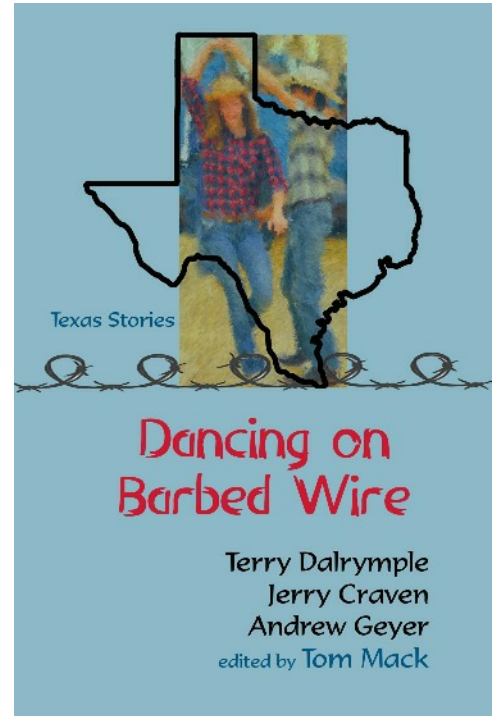


**ANGELINA
RIVER
PRESS**

Press Kit for
Dancing on Barbed Wire
Texas Tales by
Three Award-winning Texas Writers

Dancing on Barbed Wire is a unique collection of interconnected short fiction by Terry Dalrymple, Jerry Craven, and Andrew Geyer. The authors have chosen not to identify who wrote which stories, though Tom Mack in his introduction tells who wrote three of them.

**These stories are so interconnected
that the book can be read as a novel.**



The book is ordered on a plan as complex as a sestina or the quilt of a math whiz. It stitches over lives, families, decades, and a stretch of the Lone Star State the authors know intimately, bounded by the hill country, desert plains, and the piney woods. There is lore topographical, agricultural and pastoral, recurring Wagnerian leitmotifs, family sagas working themselves out over years, lives that collide and connect. Characters grow familiar, change, are etched deeper, becoming ever more themselves. The book evokes cowboy songs, love spoiled and redeemed, the damage wrought by shortcomings, the entanglements of property, sex, family secrets, generations at odds. It gives us both the complaints and sweetness of the tough, persuasively conveying the points of view of children, adolescents, the middle-aged, the thoroughly aged. It has drama and suspense. The authors' yarn-spinning dexterity and commitment to their complicated enterprise will leave you admiring their achievement, this monument to a loved place, the human beings who occupy it, and the warm force of friendship that fuels it all.

—Robert Wexelblatt, author of *Life in the Temperate Zone* and *The Artist Wears Rough Clothing*

This literary experiment by three long-time friends and collaborators makes for a delightful journey. The book is comprised of interlocked stories that may be enjoyed as individual fictions, some comic, some deadly serious, some edging into the mystic; but the overall effect is complex, entertaining, frequently surprising, and always thought-provoking.

—Richard Moseley, Fiction Editor, *Amarillo Bay*

During the composition of the book, nine of the stories were published in *Amarillo Bay*, *descant*, *Langdon Review of the Literary Arts in Texas*, *RiverSedge*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and *Writing Texas*.

About the writers

The following information comes from Tom Mack's introduction to *Dancing on Barbed Wire*

Terry Dalrymple [<https://terrydalrymple.yolasite.com/>]

A recipient of the Dr. Frances Hernandez Teacher-Scholar Award from the Conference of College Teachers of English, Terry Dalrymple holds the John S. Cargile Professorship in English at Angelo State University. Dalrymple is the founding editor of the literary journal *Concho River Review* and the author of the novel *Fishing for Trouble* and the story collections *Love Stories (Sort Of)* and *Salvation and Other Stories*. He also edited *Texas Soundtrack: Texas Stories Inspired by Texas Songs* and co-edited, with Laurence Musgrove, *Texas Weather: An Anthology of Poetry, Short Fiction, and Nonfiction*.

Jerry Craven [www.jerrycraven.com]

The author of twenty-seven books to date, Jerry Craven is equally adept at writing novels, short stories, and poetry. His most recent novels include *The Big Thicket*, *Searching for Rama's Spear*, *The Wild Part*, *Women of Thunder*, and *The Jungle's Edge*. Craven's latest foray into short fiction is entitled *Ceremonial Stones of Fire*; his most recent poetry collection is *Becoming Others*. Craven's short story "The Stone Salvation Barn" won the prestigious Frank O'Connor Award for Fiction. He serves as press director for Lamar University Literary Press and Ink Brush Press.

Andrew Geyer [<http://andrewgeyer.org/>]

Andrew Geyer's tale "Fingers," the opening story in the hybrid story cycle *Texas 5X5*, won the 2015 Spur Award for best short fiction from the Western Writers of America. His individually authored books include *Dixie Fish*, *Siren Songs from the Heart of Austin*, *Meeting the Dead*, and *Whispers in Dust and Bone*, which won the silver medal for best short fiction in the Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Awards and the 2004 Spur Award. With Tom Mack, Geyer edited the groundbreaking composite anthology *A Shared Voice*. He currently serves as Professor and Chair of English at the University of South Carolina Aiken and as fiction editor for *Concho River Review*.

All three contributors to this volume have achieved recognition, both popular and critical. All three are members of the prestigious Texas Institute of Letters. As writers endowed with considerable creativity and as Texans by heritage and commitment, Craven, Dalrymple, and Geyer have lent their compelling voices to this innovative anthology focused on the people and passions of the Lone Star State.

—Tom Mack, University of South Carolina Distinguished Professor Emeritus

What Other Writers are Saying about *Dancing on Barbed Wire*

For over two decades, I have followed, with keen interest and deep respect, the distinguished fiction of Jerry Craven, Terry Dalrymple, and Andrew Geyer. In *Dancing on Barbed Wire*, the three authors join their considerable talents to create a cutting-edge "anthology" of twelve short stories, three pieces of flash fiction, and a novella, all of which are intricately linked by character, plot, setting (Texas), theme, imagery, and style. None of the authors is identified in the text of the book. The three authors merge their individual voices so seamlessly into a single "new voice" that it is impossible for me to identify "who" writes "what," despite my longtime familiarity with the fiction of all three. The deft manipulation of literary voice which characterizes this breakthrough work of fiction is stunningly original and executed with consummate literary skill.

—Larry D. Thomas, 2008 Texas Poet Laureate and Member of the Texas Institute of Letters

Dancing on a Barbed Wire is like nothing you've ever seen before in print. The closest analogies are in film—the works of Terrence Malick—and, in television,—True Detective and The Wire. Nonlinear, threaded, thematically related, and revisiting characters and /or the descendants of characters, the three authors and the editor of the collection have created a world much more like the real world than most fiction. Readers will be hungry to devour the iterations of intertwined stories and will be rewarded with a realistic, deeply human and touching end—and, perhaps, continuance—to stories that begin as early as 1861 and conclude in present-day. *Dancing on Barbed Wire* is addictive, so make some popcorn and get comfortable, because you won't want to stop reading until the last word.

—Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, Director, The Red Earth MFA in Creative Writing; 2017-18 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate

Co-authors Terry Dalrymple, Jerry Craven and Andrew Geyer deliver the excitement promised in the title and then some as they propel the reader through 171 pages of love, lust, betrayal and redemption. The sixteen interlocked narratives move at a clip through time and space, from the Civil War to the present, from sun-scorched brush country to the lush and sometimes lethal Piney Woods. Although readers may detect shades of Hawthorne and Faulkner in the haunted houses, serial characters, disembodied voices and rattling family skeletons appearing in these stories, their ethos is distinctly Texan, complete with fields of swaying bluebonnets, sprawling ranches, a champion roping horse and plenty of three-alarm chile. The authors deftly sidestep stereotypes, however, instead showcasing such unexpected characters as a cowboy who hates cattle, a parrot that curses mailmen, and a Hill Country farmer who prays to the Roman goddess Fortuna. Readers will admire the master narrative that emerges from this collection of related tales. Bravo!

—Carol Coffee Reposa, 2018 Texas Poet Laureate and author of *Underground Musicians*

In this inventive collection, Jerry Craven, Andrew Geyer, and Terry Dalrymple weave together coherent, appealing stories that allow readers to focus on the intertwined narratives and to engage in untangling the mystery of which accomplished writer contributed the particular story. Tales of Texas, bastards, cats, parrots, bluebonnets, dogs, and love lost and found are woven together with barbed wire prose in this innovative approach to story-telling.

—Mark Busby, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, Texas State University, San Marcos; Past President, Texas Institute of Letters

This clever adaptation of the short-story cycle is like a weaving where characters pass first as warp—setting the stage, then weft—elaborating their histories and motives. The reader meets again a character from a previous story, with more revelation through widening circumstances. Texas folk, mostly rural or small-town, of Southeast and Southwest Texas stomp and holler, suffer, try to explain themselves to others, to find in the end they only need to explain themselves to themselves. It's an added bonus that the three authors are longtime friends, acting through an art form as though they were standing together under a mesquite tree, drinking beer, finishing each other's sentences.

—Jan Seale, Texas Poet Laureate, 2012, author of *Ordinary Charms*