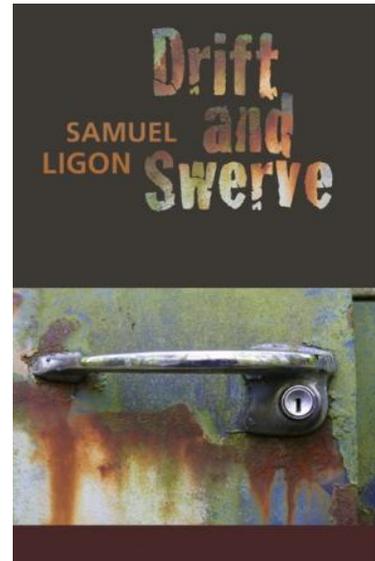




Samuel Ligon is the author of *Drift and Swerve* (Autumn House 2009), and *Safe in Heaven Dead*, a novel, (HarperCollins 2003). His stories have appeared in *The Quarterly*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *StoryQuarterly*, *Noise: Fiction Inspired by Sonic Youth*, *Post Road*, *Manoa*, *Keyhole*, *New England Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Other Voices*, and elsewhere. The title story from *Drift and Swerve* was included as a recommended story in the 2008 *O. Henry Prize Stories*. He teaches at Eastern Washington University's Inland Northwest Center for Writers in Spokane, Washington, and is the editor of the literary journal *Willow Springs*.

Winner of the 2008 Autumn House Fiction Prize selected by Sharon Dilworth, the 14 kinetic stories of *Drift and Swerve* swirl around characters in motion, hungry for connection or disconnection, struggling with violence and sexual emptiness, bad decisions and unintended consequences. A family flees a dying grandmother, pursuing and nearly killing a drunk driver. A man abandoned by his wife becomes involved in a violent sexual relationship as he struggles to become a parent to his daughter. An adolescent girl runs to Providence, steals drug money to escape an empty relationship and runs to Austin, still searching for love, though she knows she has as much chance as anyone—none. These are stories of connection and fracture, struggle and survival, dignity and disgrace, stories of isolation and the sparks of intimacy that reanimate hope.

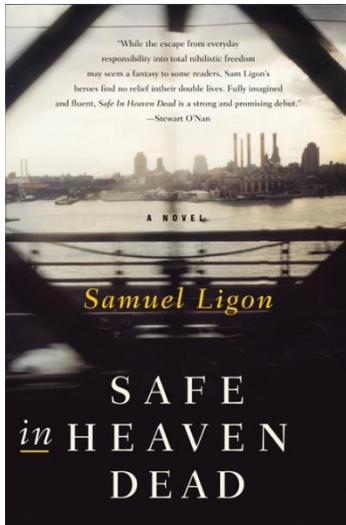


“*Drift and Swerve* is an extraordinary collection—fourteen feverish stories propelled by Samuel Ligon's vigorous, perfect prose. Darkly funny and surprisingly moving, these tales of collision and escape feature unforgettable characters, like Nikki, who careens through the book's hard America with a ferocious, incurable case of hope.”

—**Jess Walter**

“Samuel Ligon's writing does not drift and swerve, but remains ruthlessly clear-eyed and disciplined even as it depicts characters who find themselves at odds with grace. His worlds as rendered in this collection are grim, fascinating, devastating and, at times, hilarious. Ligon has an unerring instinct for human fallibility, for connections longed for and connections missed, for the stories we tell ourselves to survive.”

—**Aurelie Sheehan**



Praise for *Safe in Heaven Dead*

“A superbly convincing first novel An expertly motivated debut that moves briskly and doesn’t lost sight of its affecting purpose.”

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“This debut novel instantly seizes and holds the imagination. Few readers will remain unmoved by the agonizing questions that drive the story, and the tragedy with which the book begins and ends.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Ligon is firmly in control, laying out the elements of the story like the piece of a giant jigsaw puzzle.”

—*New York Times Book Review*

“Occasionally, the good novels are the ones that make us squirm, and *Safe in Heaven Dead* is a very good novel.”

—*Fort Worth Star Telegram*

“While the escape from everyday responsibility into total nihilistic freedom may seem a fantasy to some readers, Sam Ligon’s heroes find no relief in their double lives. Fully imagines and fluent, *Safe in Heaven dead* is a strong and promising debut.”

—**Stewart O’Nan**

“The best miserable book of the year. . . . *Safe in Heaven Dead* is that rare novel which envelopes us completely in its world.”

—**David Abrams**, *January Magazine*

“Ligon’s a keen analyst of marital discord and he writes beautifully.”

—*Detroit Free Press*

“One of the best five books of the year.”

—**Tod Goldberg**, *Las Vegas Mercury*

“This is an incredible first novel. It disturbs, stuns, and unsettles all things. Read it.”

—*Providence Journal Bulletin*

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