



**Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives (excerpt)
(Electric Literature's Recommended Reading Book
94)**

Brad Watson

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"Of all [this] story's wonders, to me the most sublime is the unlikely residual radiance of nobility that clings to its human characters," writes Deborah Eisenberg, author of *The Collected Stories of Deborah Eisenberg*, in her introduction to this issue of *Recommended Reading*. "It's obvious that the particular aliens who infiltrate these pages far outweigh us in brains, skills, and poise—they certainly are in the prime of their lives! And yet rarely have our human qualities of sorrow, ineptitude, longing, regret, and their preposterous adjunct, hope, seemed so precious as they do here."

About the Author:

Brad Watson was born in Mississippi and now lives in Wyoming, where he teaches in The University of Wyoming's MFA in Creative Writing Program. His books include *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, *The Heaven of Mercury*, and *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives*, all from W.W. Norton. His stories have appeared in *The Black Warrior Review*, *The Oxford American*, *Granta*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Story*, *The New Yorker*, *Ecotone*, *Yalobusha Review*, *Narrative*, *Idaho Review*, and other fine magazines. They've been included in *The Best American Mystery Stories*, *The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Best New Stories from the South*, and various other anthologies. His work has been honored by The American Academy of Arts and Letters, The Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, The National Book Foundation, the PEN/Faulkner Foundation, and others. He has received grants, fellowships, or residencies from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lannan Foundation, and the Aspen Writers Foundation/The Catto Charitable Foundation. He lives with his wife, writer and horse trainer Nell Hanley, and their two dogs and five horses. You can find a recent interview with him, by James Redd and *Prairie Schooner*, [here](#).

About the Guest Editor:

The Collected Stories of Deborah Eisenberg won the 2011 PEN Faulkner Award. She is a MacArthur Fellow as of 2009, and in 2013 she performed the role of Judy in Andre Gregory's production of Wallace Shawn's *The Designated Mourner*.

About the Publisher:

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