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"The stories in *AM/PM* have ruined me as a reader of shorts. I will no longer be satisfied by the merely beautiful, the singularly clever, or the one big thought purely rendered. I want all those things in a two hundred word package. I want to be highly amused and deeply sad at the exact same time. Amelia Gray packs more power in a paragraph than I thought possible."

—**Stacey Swann**, Editor of *American Short Fiction*

Dear Tastemaker,

Every month, Austin author Amelia Gray puts writers through the wringer for her reading series: Five Things. Gray selects objects of inspirations which five artists must use as inspiration to craft five-minute pieces. As a writer, she's applied the same humorous curiosity and affinity for constraint, writing one flash-fiction story in the morning and another in the evening for two months. The pieces eventually became *AM/PM*, a riotous and eclectic collection of linked stories and one of the most exciting and anticipated releases yet from Chicago's featherproofbooks.

If anything's going to save the characters in Gray's debut from their troubled romances, their social improprieties, or their hands turning into claws, it's a John Mayer concert tee. In *AM/PM*, (ISBN 978-0-9771992-7-3, \$12.95, Distributed to the trade by: Publishers Group West) Gray's flash-fiction collection, impish humor is on full display. Tour through the lives of 23 characters across 120 stories full of lizard tails, Schrödinger boxes and volcano love. Follow June, who wakes up one morning covered in seeds; Leonard, who falls in love with a chaise lounge; and Andrew, who talks to his house in times of crisis. An intermittent love story as seen through a darkly comic lens, Gray mixes poetry and prose, humor and hubris to create a truly original piece of fiction.

As the Internet becomes a stronger, more diverse home for today's most innovative writing, the short-short story has become its most thrilling and natural form. Gray's writing has found a cult following online, thanks to the truly original and surprising turns it takes. Bringing her work into book form has added a whole new dimension to the work, proving that print and digital technology complement each other. We really think you should take a look at this book, and of course review copies are available. Gray is also available (and fun!) for interviews and will tour the country this summer. We hope you'll consider *AM/PM*, the debut from an incredible new writer, and the latest offering from featherproofbooks, hailed as Chicago's Most Innovative Press by *The Chicago Reader*.

Thank you for your time,
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Amelia Gray founded Five Things, a reading series challenging five artists to create an original five-minute piece from a provided prompt. She lives in Austin, TX, and teaches at Austin Community College. Her writing has appeared in *The Onion*, *American Short Fiction*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Caketrain*, among others. Her work has been chosen as the finalist for *McSweeney's* Amanda Davis Highwire Contest and the *DIAGRAM* Innovative Fiction Contest.

Full press kit, including author photos and book cover, can be found at featherproof.com. Just click on 'press' and scroll on down. Or email us at press@featherproof.com

