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*There's such freshness, naturalness, humor and charm to Jonathan Messenger's stories—an overall sense of immediacy that planted me in the present—that only in retrospect did I realize how in **Hiding Out**, Messenger had also subtly constructed a personal and original world. —Stuart Dybek, author of *The Coast of Chicago* and *I Sailed With Magellan**



Dear Tastemaker,

Each month Jonathan Messenger digs through the dusty shelves of a dollar store, searching for inspiration. The treasures eventually find their way on stage as part of his monthly Dollar Store show, a reading series that has sold out for the past two years and been featured by National Public Radio, the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Tribune*.

Riding the heels of the Dollar Store's success, Messenger introduces his much-anticipated first collection of stories, **Hiding Out** (On sale date: **October 1, 2007**, \$13.95, black and white illustrations, ISBN 978-0-9771992-3-5). Similar to the Dollar Store, Messenger's characters find the incredible in the everyday: A jilted lover dons robot armor to win back the heart of an ex-girlfriend; an angel loots the home of a single father; a man deals with the news of an aneurysm as the result of a soccer mishap; a protagonist "ghostpesters" a dead friend. The stories included in his debut collection range from the fantastic to real, sad to funny. Regardless, each one is a warm and charming look at characters who strive to erase their loneliness, endearingly failing almost every time.

We're pleased as punch to announce copies of **Hiding Out** are available for review. Messenger is available for interviews and will be touring across the country this fall. We hope you'll consider for review this debut from one of the freshest new voices on the literary scene.

Thank you for your time,
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*One part Office Space, one part George Saunders, one part Steve Martin's Lonely Guy, and one part Richard Yates' Eleven Kinds of Loneliness: shake it up, and what you have is a wholly original concoction. Hilarious at times, heartbreaking at others, Jonathan Messenger's **Hiding Out** is always, always surprising. These are fantastic stories by a writer whose next book I'm already eager to read. —John McNally, author of *The Book of Ralph* and *America's Report Card**

Jonathan Messenger founded *THISisGRAND*, a journal of creative non-fiction publishing stories of Chicago's public transit in 2004. Now the Books editor for *Time Out Chicago*, he is also the founder of the acclaimed Dollar Store reading series. His work has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Rainbow Curve*, *Pindeldyboz*, *THE2NDHAND* among others, and is forthcoming in *Awake!*, a new anthology from Soft Skull Press.

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