

**Tails or Heads:
Stories from Other Centuries**

Richard Haffey

Quarto Three

While the currents of history seem to frame the events in the lives of ordinary people, these four stories bear testimony to the history-shaping power that resides in the choices made and actions taken by ordinary folks and folk heroes who find themselves immersed within those events.

A Christmas Tale

Tails

Wrapped for a while in the present and past, you'll find nothing traditional in the future for Robert Jackson in this shocking holiday tale from the streets of New York.

The Letters

Heads

Travel back to the early 1990s and be horrified by a terrorist kidnapping of Carol Dwight for ransom that unexpectedly exposes a deep cover operative and forces her husband and son to choose between their own resources and the help of New York's finest.

Reconstruction

Tails

Step past the spittoons and through the sawdust on the tavern floor in 1868 to share a drink and a meal with Walt Whitman and a pair of railroader planners hoping to rebuild the economy and the country, until a wartime reminiscence puts them at irreconcilable odds.

The Cook's Tale

Heads

Set aside the V-2 bombing concussions and allow yourself to be mesmerized by the public reading in Middle English of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Cook's Tale*, purportedly saved from the artillery bombardment of a French Abby, and intoned by gender-biased British professor of literature, Norman Wedley, blinded by the "publish or perish" syndrome.