



THE MAN WITH EIGHT PAIRS OF LEGS

LESLIE KIRK CAMPBELL
STORIES

Winner of the 2020 Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction

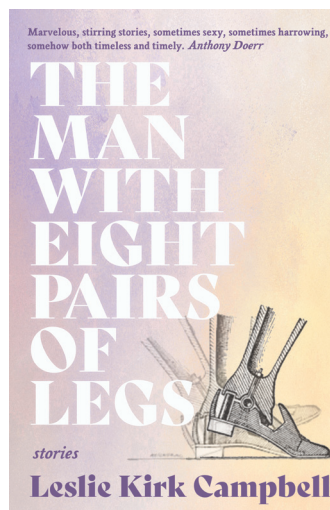
The Man with Eight Pairs of Legs is about the ways our bodies are marked by memory, often literally, and the risky decisions we make when pushed to the extreme. Winner of the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, this collection of short stories is a study in compassion and in passion, a must-read for our times.

Leslie Kirk Campbell's short fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares Solos* and won awards at *Arts & Letters*, *Southern Indiana Review*, *Briar Cliff Review*, and *The Thomas Wolfe Review*. The author of *Journey into Motherhood* (Riverhead), Campbell is the mother of two grown sons and teaches at Ripe Fruit Writing, a creative writing program she founded in San Francisco, CA.

Praise for *The Man with Eight Pairs of Legs*

"History and memory crosscut through *The Man with Eight Pairs of Legs* in a gorgeous weave. These are marvelous, stirring stories, sometimes sexy, sometimes harrowing, somehow both timeless and timely. Campbell writes with great depth, patience, wisdom, and beauty."

—Anthony Doerr, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for
All the Light We Cannot See



"*The Man with Eight Pairs of Legs*, Leslie Kirk Campbell's prize-winning debut collection of eight stories, is distinguished by the range and diversity of the stories. The seemingly effortless invention of compelling characters entangled in unpredictable situations lends this book a vibrancy and vitality that's at once sophisticated and utterly natural. And though this is a collection of individual stories, there's an underlining drive of an intense single voice that gives this book a memorable force."

—Stuart Dybek, MacArthur Fellow and author of
Paper Lantern: Love Stories



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THE MAN WITH EIGHT PAIRS OF LEGS

“Leslie Kirk Campbell’s stories feature protagonists whose wisdom and wit and tenderness and patience and openness to existence cannot save them from trauma or anxiety or longing or the manic duplicities of love. These stories are masterful on the impossibility of negotiating implacably contradicting desires, and on the indivisibility of the personal and the political. *The Man with Eight Pairs of Legs* is a superbly accomplished and assured debut.”

—Jim Shepard, author of *The World to Come* and *Phase Six*

“Leslie Kirk Campbell’s stories immerse you into a complete and layered world where her characters are suspended between self-destruction and rebirth. Hypnotic, strange, and lovely.”

—Michelle Wildgen, author of *Bread and Butter* and *You’re Not You*