

# David Allen Joy

*www.david-joy.com*

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## Education

- M.A. Professional Writing, Western Carolina University May 2009  
B.A. English Literature, cum laude, Western Carolina University May 2007

## Employment

- The Cashiers Historical Society January 2013-July 2014  
Manager  
*The Crossroads Chronicle*, Cashiers, N.C. August 2009-January 2013  
Staff Writer/Columnist  
Western Carolina University; English Department Summer 2009  
Instructor of ENGL 190 (2)  
Western Carolina University; English Department August 2008-May 2009  
Teaching Assistant / Instructor of First Year Composition; ENGL 101 and 102  
Western Carolina University; Academic Success Program Summer 2008  
Instructor of COUN 190  
Western Carolina University; English Department August 2007-May 2008  
Teaching Assistant / Writing Center Tutor

## Books

- Joy, David. *Where All Light Tends To Go*. New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, Mar. 2015.  
Joy, David. *Growing Gills: A Fly Fisherman's Journey*. Asheville, N.C.: Bright Mountain Books, Sept. 2011.

## Books Awaiting Publication

- Joy, David. *The Weight Of This World*. New York: G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2016.

## Translations Awaiting Publication

- Joy, David. *Where All Light Tends To Go*. Paris: Sonatine Editions, 2016. (French; first edition)  
Joy, David. *The Weight Of This World*. Paris: Sonatine Editions, 2017. (French; first edition)  
Joy, David. *Where All Light Tends To Go*. Paris: Editions 10/18, 2017. (French; pocketbook edition)  
Joy, David. *The Weight Of This World*. Paris: Editions 10/18, 2018. (French; pocketbook edition)

## Publications

- Joy, David. "What Cannot Be Carried Alone." *Still: The Journal*, Issue 18 (Spring 2015).
- Joy, David. "The Line That Held Us." *Pisgah Review*, 7.1 (Winter 2013): 26-34.
- Joy, David. "The Stars Shall Withdraw Their Shining." *Flycatcher*, No. 3 (Summer/Fall 2013).
- Joy, David. "Untitled." *Haiku Journal*, Issue 16 (Summer 2013).
- Joy, David. "The Long Row." *Drafthorse Literary Journal* 1.2 (Summer 2012).
- Joy, David. "Creatures of Fire." *Smoky Mountain Living* 10.3 (Summer 2010): 44-47.

- Joy, David. "Sound of Silence." *Smoky Mountain Living* 10.1 (Winter 2010): 42-45.
- Joy, David. "Native." *Smoky Mountain Living* 9.4 (Summer 2009): 54-56.
- Joy, David. "Breaking in the Cork." *The Wilderness House Literary Review* 4.1 (Spring 2009): 1-9.
- Joy, David. "Tired and Feathered." *Bird Watcher's Digest* 31.2 (Nov/Dec 2008): 80-82.

### Awards and Honors

- *Cosmopolitan* magazine names *Where All Light Tends To Go* one of its "50 Things To Do This Month" in the March 2015 issue
- 2014 storySouth Million Writers Award nomination from *Flycatcher* for "The Stars Shall Withdraw Their Shining"
- 2013 Pushcart Prize nomination from *Flycatcher* for "The Stars Shall Withdraw Their Shining"
- 2012 Finalist for Ragan Old North State Award for Nonfiction from The North Carolina Literary and Historical Association for *Growing Gills*
- 2012 Finalist for Reed Environmental Writing Award from Southern Environmental Law Center for *Growing Gills*
- 2012 Finalist for Roosevelt-Ashe Society Conservation Award from Wild South for *Growing Gills*
- 2012 North Carolina Press Association First Place for Best Serious Columns
- 2012 North Carolina Press Association Second Place for Best Lighter Columns
- 2011 North Carolina Press Association Second Place for Best Lighter Columns
- 2011 North Carolina Press Association Third Place for Best Investigative Reporting
- 2010 North Carolina Press Association Third Place for Best Investigative Reporting
- 2009 Karen Nicholson Best Thesis Award from Western Carolina University
- 2008-2009 Dean's Outstanding Scholar Award from Western Carolina University

### Readings/Signings

- May 15-17, 2015; 19<sup>th</sup> Annual South Carolina Book Festival; Columbia, SC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- May 2, 2015; Union Avenue Books; Knoxville, TN; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- May 1, 2015; Parnassus Books; Nashville, TN; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- April 30, 2015; "Pages and Pints" at Apollo Pizza and Beer Emporium; Richmond, KY; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- April 29, 2015; Carmichael's Bookstore; Louisville, KY; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- April 15, 2015; 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Literary Festival at Western Carolina University; Cullowhee, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- April 11, 2015; Blue Ridge Books; Waynesville, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 22, 2015; Georgia Center for The Book; Decatur, GA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 21, 2015; Avid Bookshop; Athens, GA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 21, 2015; FoxTale Book Shoppe; Woodstock, GA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 20, 2015; Murder By The Book; Houston, TX; Group panel on crime fiction with Owen Laukkanen, Bryon Quartermous, and Duane Swierczynski; *Where All Light Tends To Go*

- March 19, 2015; The Poisoned Pen Bookstore; Scottsdale, AZ; Group panel on crime fiction with Owen Laukkanen and Bryon Quartermous; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 18, 2015; Vroman's Bookstore; Los Angeles, CA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 17, 2015; Octavia Books; New Orleans, LA; Joint reading with M.O. Walsh; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 16, 2015; Alabama Booksmith; Birmingham, AL; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 13, 2015; Quail Ridge Books; Raleigh, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 12, 2015; The Regulator Bookshop; Durham, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 11, 2015; Flyleaf Books; Chapel Hill, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 10, 2015; Hub City Bookshop; Spartanburg, SC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 9, 2015; Park Road Books; Charlotte, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 8, 2015; Malaprop's Bookstore; Asheville, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 6, 2015; City Lights Bookstore; Sylva, NC; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 5, 2015; Square Books; Presented on the Thacker Mountain Radio Show; Oxford, MS; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 4, 2015; Lemuria Books; Jackson, MS; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- March 3, 2015; The Booksellers at Laurelwood; Memphis, TN; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- October 27-30, 2014; Putnam Books' "Books, Beer, and Bourbon Tour" with fellow authors Ace Atkins, C.J. Box, and M.O. Walsh; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; Boston, MA; New York, NY; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- September 28, 2014; Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Fall Trade Show; Tacoma, WA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- September 19, 2014; Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance Trade Show; Norfolk, VA; *Where All Light Tends To Go*
- June 15, 2013; Lincoln Memorial University's Mountain Heritage Literary Festival; Harrogate, TN; Read from *Ruth: A Beautiful Dismantling*
- April 12, 2012; Albert Carlton-Cashiers Community Library; Cashiers, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*
- March 21, 2012; Western Carolina University Spring Literary Festival; Cullowhee, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*
- January 14, 2012; Malaprop's Bookstore & Café; Asheville, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*
- November 19, 2011; Park Road Books; Charlotte, N.C.; Signing for *Growing Gills*
- November 11, 2011; City Lights Bookstore; Sylva, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*
- October 22, 2011; Asheville Book Fest; Asheville, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*
- September 18, 2011; Blue Ridge Books; Waynesville, N.C.; Read from *Growing Gills*

### Reviews of *Where All Light Tends To Go*

- "[A] remarkable first novel...This isn't your ordinary coming-of-age novel, but with his bone-cutting insights into these men and the region that bred them, Joy makes it an extraordinarily intimate experience."—Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*
- "[An] accomplished debut...In Appalachia, a young outlaw, Jacob McNeely, struggles to escape what Faulkner called that "old fierce pull of blood," a violent meth-dealing father, the dark legacies of an unforgiving place and the terrible miseries it breeds. [A] beautiful,

brutal book.”—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

- “Readers of Southern grit lit in the tradition of Daniel Woodrell and Harry Crews will enjoy this fast-paced debut thriller. Fans of Ron Rash’s novels will appreciate the intricate plot and Joy’s establishment of a strong sense of place in his depiction of rural Appalachia.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)
- “Bound to draw comparisons to Daniel Woodrell's *Winter's Bone*...[Joy's] moments of poetic cognizance are the stuff of fine fiction, lyrical sweets that will keep readers turning pages...*Where All Light Tends To Go* is a book that discloses itself gradually, like a sunrise peeking over a distant mountain range...If [Joy's next] novel is anything like his first, it'll be worth the wait.”—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
- “Joy’s first novel is an uncompromising noir, its downward thrust pulling like quicksand on both the characters and the reader. And, yet, there is poetry here, too, as there is in Daniel Woodrell’s novels, the kind of poetry that draws its power from a doomed character’s grit in the face of disaster...This is the start of a very promising fiction-writing career.”—*Booklist*
- “Gripping...Engaging characters, a well-realized setting, and poetic prose establish Joy as a novelist worth watching.”—*Publishers Weekly*
- “Joy works with the materials many call the stuff of 'country noir.' The result calls to mind the work of powerful writers such as Ron Rash, Daniel Woodrell, Mark Powell, and Cormac McCarthy...Joy has crafted a piece of masterful fiction. His sense of pace, his ability to catch the reader off guard with explosive and often upsetting incidents, his way with the shape of a chapter—all herald a major young writer.”—*Still: The Journal*
- “Joy’s debut is about hope as much as it is fate...[it] is harrowing. Joy’s voice is authentic, his prose sparse, his eye for detail minute. Everything works in this novel to push the reader closer and closer to the cliff’s edge, hoping against hope that what won’t be required is to jump off.”—*Mountain Times*
- “*Where All Light Tends to Go* is lyrical, propulsive, dark and compelling. In this debut novel, David Joy makes it clear that he knows well the grit and gravel of his world, the soul and blemishes of the place. He uses details that put us inside the picture, and lets his narrative move at a graceful but restless pace.” —Daniel Woodrell, New York Times-bestselling author of *Winter’s Bone* and *The Maid’s Version*
- "David Joy has written a savage and moving account of a young man’s attempt to transcend his family’s legacy of violence. *Where All Light Tends to Go* is an outstanding debut and a fine addition to the country noir vein of Southern Literature." -Ron Rash, PEN/Faulkner finalist and New York Times-bestselling author of *Serena*
- "Compelling and authentic . . . a harsh tale of young love’s tender hopes set against the brutal realities of ruined Appalachia. Jacob McNeely’s story is one worth reading." - Tawni O’Dell, New York Times-bestselling author of *Back Roads*
- "Running with the dopers, drunks, and less fortunate in my youth, those who were doomed by their surroundings, the story that David Joy tells is one of truth, power and circumstance and quite possibly a tour de force in American letters." -Frank Bill, author of the collection *Crimes In Southern Indiana* and the novel *Donnybrook*
- "David Joy writes under the auspices of community, heartbreak, and love, and makes use of the warmest color in fiction - gray. What is right and what is wrong and who is to decide? In the North Carolina mountains, these answers don't come easy. Big decisions come with big consequences, and if you second guess, you lose." -Michael Farris Smith,

author of *Rivers* and *The Hands of Strangers*

- "David Joy gives us a world that is equal parts graceful beauty and true grit in this poetic and heart-pounding novel. *Where All Light Tends to Go* contains those essential elements for a novel that 'sticks to the ribs': complex and memorable characters, a palpable sense of place, and a plot that is driven as much by suspense as lyricism. You won't be able to put down this profoundly moving and illuminating look into a mysterious and intricate world where the smell of the southern pines mingles with the scent of cooking meth." - Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt* and *Eli the Good*
- "*Where All Light Tends to Go* reads like the whiskey-breath of Harry Crews word-drunk on the lyricism of Daniel Woodrell. It's as brutally beautiful as it is heartbreaking, and that's a rare thing." -Mark Powell, author of *The Dark Corner*

### Reviews of *Growing Gills*

- "If any human could grow gills, it would be David Joy. His life-long connection to fish is vividly realized in this book, in large part because of his poetic language and sensibility. *Growing Gills* is a book anyone interested in our connection to the natural world will relish." —Ron Rash, author of 2009 PEN/Faulkner finalist *Serena*
- "Attention fishing widows: if you've struggled in vain to understand man's obsession with fishing, you must read David Joy's memoir *Growing Gills: A Fly Fisherman's Journey*. In prose clean and clear as a mountain stream, Joy explores his own abiding love of fish and, by extension, the natural world that is their habitat. His passion is contagious and, even if you've never seen a trout in your life, by the end of this beautifully written book you can't help but feel a connection. You may even be tempted to take up a rod yourself." —Pamela Duncan, author of *Plant Life* and other novels
- "In Joy's ambitious moments, he uses fishing stories to move into philosophical terrain, pondering his heritage and wondering if humans can revert to a state of wildness. As the book proves, the act of fishing, being the predator in search of another living thing, brings the human closer to the natural world, from which some people feel separated." -*Our State Magazine*
- "Convergence with nature is a kind of religion, which becomes evident when Joy steers his book toward prophecy and enlightenment...The book is a classic to which readers will keep returning." -*Asheville Citizen-Times*
- "Comparisons to David James Duncan's classic *The River Why* are inevitable, but Joy distinguishes his work with a wit and wisdom all his own. His narrative is infused with poetic romanticism that will connect with anyone who's found happiness with a rod and reel." -*WNC magazine*
- "Joy offers readers both a paeon to fishing and a memoir of his own days on the water. He takes us from the coast of North Carolina, where he fished as a boy with his family, to the creeks and rivers of our own mountains...Both amateur and veteran anglers may learn some good lessons from Joy's clear, clean prose." -*Smoky Mountain News*
- "The book speaks of larger truths, especially when it comes to one of his biggest concerns in this part of the world: development. In his opinion, that more than anything is encroaching upon his beloved wild world." -*The Mountaineer*

### Guest Lectures and Workshops

Workshop on the Novel at Hindman Settlement School (July 26-31, 2015) in Hindman, KY  
Guest lecture for Fiction Workshop, Eng. 308 (September 22, 2014); Western Carolina University upon request by Ron Rash, M.A.  
Creative Nonfiction Workshop at Lincoln Memorial University's Mountain Heritage Literary Festival (June 13-15, 2014) in Harrogate, TN  
Masters Workshop in Creative Nonfiction at Lincoln Memorial University's Mountain Heritage Literary Festival (June 14-15, 2013) in Harrogate, TN  
Guest lecture for Fiction Workshop, Eng. 308, discussing manuscript preparation for publication (December 1, 2011); Western Carolina University upon request by Pamela Duncan, M.F.A.  
Guest lecture for two Composition 101 courses discussing concepts of humanity in *Growing Gills* (October 5, 2011); Western Carolina University upon request by Jen Harris, M.A.  
Workshop on Writer's Block; Western Carolina University (Fall 2008); held in Scott Hall (freshman dormitory) upon request by Residential Director, Brian Boyer, M.S.

### **Conference Presentations**

"The Ritual," Graduate Research Symposium, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina (2009)  
"Poetic Prophets: The Canonization of Hip Hop," 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR), Asheville, North Carolina (2006)