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ANNOUNCING

**THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE**  
*A Story Cycle*

**by Marc Porter Zasada**

*Day by day, century by century, the past cries out to the future: "Do not set aside my beauty, my desires, and my carefully constructed truths, even as you try to take my precious child to some impossible shore."*

– from the Prologue

**"Grand visions...the stories are capacious and sweeping...pitch-perfect... Zasada's yarns captivate."—*Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)**

Upper Story Press is thrilled to announce **THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE** by Marc Porter Zasada—a genre-bending work of fourteen closely-linked tales which make a fictional whole, and build exquisitely to a unique understanding of the human condition. Musician Joshua Silvera will simultaneously release his single, "Stop Asking," based on lyrics from one of the key stories.

Marc Porter Zasada became well-known to Southern California audiences with his six years of "Urban Man" essays on NPR station KCRW-LA. His journalism, book reviews, and short stories have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *the Antioch Review*, *The Florida Review*, *Big Fiction*, and on *All Things Considered*. He was one of seven founding members of the Bay Area Book Awards. This is his first full-length work of fiction.

**THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE** forms a "story cycle" in which entire systems of thought rise and fall with the characters. A man in Central Park envisions a daunting, snow-capped mountain soaring up in place of The Dakota. A rock star dreams of heaven and hell. A minor Pakistani

official tries to imagine The West. An unprepared heir explores the deepest possibilities of “more.” A CFO at a financial firm tries to pass his fortune to a sailor. A college professor speaks with the dead. Lovers move first into, and then out of worlds they create together. As each character takes us closer to *The Impossible Shore*, the unreachable comes almost within our grasp.

### **Release of Song “Stop Asking” Based on Lyrics from One of the Tales**

In July 2021, singer-songwriter Joshua Silvera will release an original song, “Stop Asking,” based on lyrics written by a character in one of the book’s key tales: heavy metal singer Red Peters, “one of the world’s leading representatives of chaos.” In the tale, the phrase “Stop Asking” becomes a global meme, “a symbol of repressed youth, of the desperate masses, of the terrors of modern life, of the timeless frustration of everyone with the hassle of everything and everyone else in the batshit age we live in.” A preview link will be sent to reviewers.

### **Richly Eloquent and Always Accessible**

“I set out with two intentions,” says author Marc Porter Zasada. “To explore the way in which we don’t so much move through time as become different people in different times. But more importantly, to understand how each person’s longing for ‘the infinite,’ however personally defined, pulls us relentlessly forward.”

Bold with sensory details, richly eloquent, and always accessible, *THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE* is by turns romantic, wryly comic, and ambitiously philosophical. Often, its tales move into the realm of magic realism as characters push forward toward their desires. Within the fourteen linked tales, we explore everything from race to sexuality, music to art, religion to death. Always, the author reminds us, “The universe gives and the universe takes away, but the taking is sudden, while the giving is slow.”

Filled with rich literary references, musical allusions, and explorations of the natural world, Marc Porter Zasada’s intelligent prose and keen storytelling will prove unforgettable to any reader of serious literary fiction.

## **About the Author**

Marc Porter Zasada is best known for his six years of “Urban Man” commentaries on NPR station KCRW in Los Angeles, but he has had many careers: newspaper editor, book editor, theatre and classical music reviewer, essayist, and high-tech marketing executive at leading global companies. His articles and stories have appeared in leading literary journals and newspapers across the country. Marc was one of seven founding members of the Bay Area Book Awards. He now makes his home in Southern California with his wife of 33 years, and presently runs a marketing firm with his son. He is a graduate of Stanford University, and father to four children. This is his first full-length work of fiction.

## **THE IMPOSSIBLE SHORE: *A Story Cycle***

by Marc Porter Zasada

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