

### More Praise for *Crooked Letter i*

“*Crooked Letter i* is not a loud book. It doesn’t rant or rave. It makes no arguments, proffers no manifestos. Instead, the diverse voices represented here achieve something much more astonishing: they sing together; they harmonize. Much LGBT literature, as Stephanie Woolley-Larrea notes, focuses more on coming out than on what comes after. But this anthology plumbs the before, during, and after of that complex process with artful nuance and ruminative grace.”

— JULIE MARIE WADE, *Wishbone: A Memoir in Fractures*

“In this meticulously curated volume the regional quickly becomes universal and what was once private, and sometimes painful, becomes, in the telling, something to share and to celebrate. A wonderful addition to the literature of self-discovery and emancipation.”

— MADELEINE BLAIS, *In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle*

“I was always aware there were boundaries. I just didn’t know quite where they were’ sums up the experience of growing up gay in the South as described in *Crooked Letter i*. These beautiful stories are poignant and sad, yet life-affirming, and anyone who came out as a young Southerner will closely identify with the peculiarities of this region, like boys having watermelon at a funeral in July or a lesbian drinking sweet iced tea at a lunch counter. Most telling are the struggles to reconcile the Southern incongruencies—a loving God who condemns his children to hell for loving another person—and a feeling that the only place we can call home will never completely be our home.”

— RICH MERRITT, *Secrets of a Gay Marine Porn Star*

“*Crooked Letter i* proves that no matter how far gay rights have advanced, the coming-out story is that extra step in the coming-of-age journey that all LGBTQI must take. The collection also proves that Southerners and storytelling go together like Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Find a front porch and a glass of iced tea and sit a spell with the stories in *Crooked Letter i*. They will surprise, amuse, move, and devastate.”

— JAMIE BRICKHOUSE, *Dangerous When Wet: A Memoir*

“From the sorority houses of Alabama to Florida beaches, from witch hunts to warm embraces, the accounts of these LGBT Southerners provide readers with countless examples of courage and confrontation, with some comic touches along the way. Memorable stories of awakenings blend with powerful images of homecomings: when she returns as a he, when a widower comes out to discover his wife was gay as well, when individuals find themselves both at home and in exile. These gay, lesbian, and transgender autobiographical voices within *Crooked Letter i* provide indelible insight for understanding identity, gender, and sexuality within the American South.”

— CATHERINE CLINTON, *Mrs. Lincoln: A Life*

“*Crooked Letter i* affirms everything that is true about the experience of coming out for Southern queers. That is, coming out is an experience that is multiple, thrilling, dangerous, and absolutely life affirming. And ‘the South’ is multiple, thrilling, dangerous, and absolutely life affirming as well, especially for those of us who call it home. Queer southern folk of nearly every ilk will hear the hymnal echoes of their own experience in this wonderful collection of voices.”

— TERESA STORES, *Getting to the Point*