



Ashland, Oregon

Phone: 760-300-3620

editors@ashlandcreekpress.com

www.ashlandcreekpress.com

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Contact: Midge Raymond

619-796-4343

midge@ashlandcreekpress.com

Anthropologist's debut novel THE NAMES OF THINGS offers a journey into love, grief, and an exotic African culture

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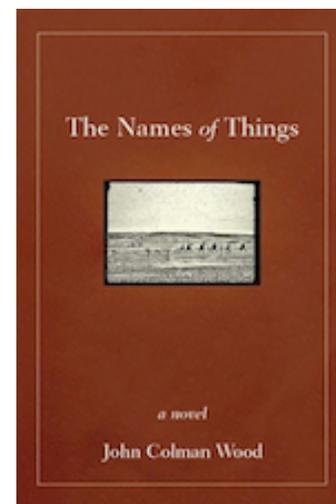
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(Ashland, OR—January 3, 2012) — Ashland Creek Press is pleased to announce the April publication of THE NAMES OF THINGS, anthropologist John Colman Wood's debut novel—an exquisite, haunting exploration of the meaning of love and the rituals of grief, set in a windswept wilderness menaced by hyenas and lions.

The anthropologist's wife, an artist, didn't want to follow her husband to the remote desert of northeast Africa to live with camel-herding nomads. Wanting to be with him, she endured the trip, only to fall desperately ill years later with a disease that leaves her husband with more questions than answers.

When the anthropologist discovers a deception that shatters his grief and guilt, he returns to Africa to make sense of what happened, traveling into the far reaches of the Chalbi Desert, where he must sift through the layers of his memories and reconcile them with what he now knows. THE NAMES OF THINGS weaves together the stories of an anthropologist's journey into the desert, his firsthand accounts of the nomads' death rituals, and his struggle to find the names of things for which no words exist.



“... beautifully renders one man's struggle to balance his life's work with the love of his life...a profound and moving story.” — Tommy Hays, author of *The Pleasure Was Mine*

About the author: John Colman Wood teaches at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. His fiction has appeared in *Anthropology and Humanism*, and he has twice won the Ethnographic Fiction Prize of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology. He is the author of *When Men Are Women: Manhood among Gabra Nomads of East Africa*.

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