

## WINNER, 2021 DORIS BETTS FICTION PRIZE

# THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE'S MOON



**Jackie and Jack Kennedy honeymoon in** Acapulco in a blush pink villa, where she reveals herself to him in slivers. Unbuttoning her linen shirt all the way to her breastbone. Scooping up her long skirt until he can see her calves, her knees, her thighs. Transfixed, Jack barely blinks or breathes, only asks for more. She likes that he asks, that he wants something from her, his voice ragged with urgency. While he watches from the bed, his gaze only on her, she slides her shirt off her shoulders.

### BY HEATHER BELL ADAMS

Like a ballerina choreographing her dance, Jackie calculates what to do next. Perhaps she will slip out of her skirt, at the last moment unhooking her bra and shimmying out of her underwear. But the room, with its spotless white plaster, the chilly tile floor, feels formal and impersonal. The last of the evening sun splashes against the French doors

**HEATHER BELL ADAMS** is the author of the novels *Maranatha Road* (West Virginia University Press, 2017; reviewed in *NCLR Online* 2019) and *The Good Luck Stone* (Haywire Books, 2020; to be reviewed in *NCLR Online* Fall 2022). Her writing has won the Rose Post Creative Nonfiction Award, the Carrie McCray Literary Award, and the James Still Fiction Prize and has appeared in, among other literary magazines, *Still*, *The Thomas Wolfe Review*, *Atticus Review*, *Broad River Review*, and *Pembroke Magazine*. A lifelong North Carolinian, she works as a lawyer in Raleigh and is serving as the 2022 Piedmont Laureate.

The 2021 Doris Betts Fiction Prize competition final judge Monique Truong characterized the author's "prose as elegant and poised as the young Jackie Bouvier herself. . . . The writing here shimmers and glows, Jackie and Jack do too."

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**Proof**