

WELLS & SONNE



Selected Short Stories of
Chelsea Laine Wells and Lex Sonne

Short stories, typography and original illustrations have always been separate topics that interested me. In the fall of 2011, I decided to try and put those three interests together in form of a book of short stories that would employ handset typography and use original illustrations.

The short story genre has always appealed to me. I love the economy of word, the inevitable change of direction as we near the end, the feeling of awe at the writer's skill. A short story is a window that we, as readers, can look into or out of. Looking in gives us an intimate view of someone else's life—their habits, desires, interests—while looking out shows us our own lives, and how they can be so much more than we ever expected.

Being affiliated with a school that has a nationally recognized Fiction Writing Department made finding writers relatively easy. The only thing difficult about finding an illustrator to work with was that I had such a wide choice of great illustrators to choose from. I didn't master the amount of type I would need though until nearly the end of the project after I had ordered enough type to fill three California type cases. That allowed me to have two galleys on the press, two more being set and two galleys being distributed.

Nor did I accurately anticipate how long it might take to print a 72- page book. My six interns and I took nearly seven months to complete the text and then two more months to complete the art that was tipped in after the textblocks were bound and cased in.

The six stories published here by Chelsea Laine Wells and Lex Sonne differ widely in plot, voice, and point of view. And yet, these stories all share a similarity of theme, holding their loss up to the window for the reader to examine. Often,

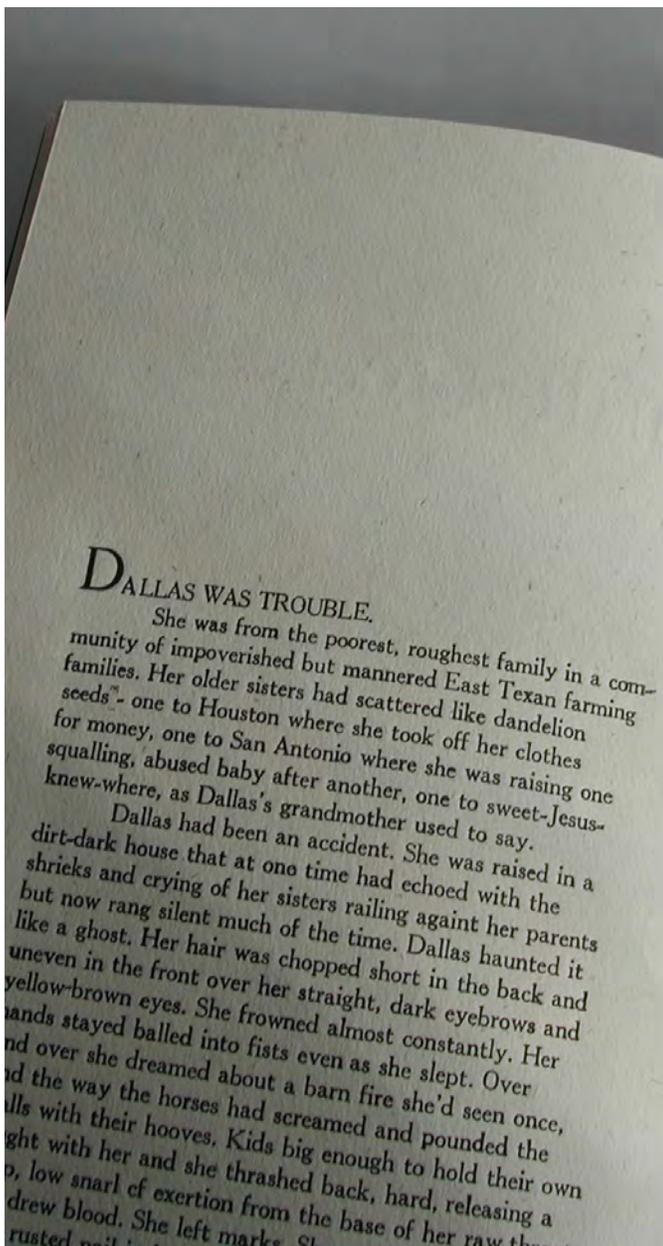
the characters involved are ambivalent to what they've lost; only the reader can understand the injuries they've sustained.

In "Birdie," we see the sister's life measured by hash marks on a wall. A brooding brother realizes at the draw of his sister's breath, his marks will continue long after hers. "Delaney" describes a vacuous woman who doesn't know she's creating the same emotional drought in her impassive daughter. "The Heart of God" explores that same arid existence in the unhappy trajectory of another uncomprehending innocent, opening with a lunch and ending with a rusting lunch box. In "Ripper," the main character mistakes death and murder as an acceptable common life experience. "What You Remember" traces the narrator's growing disappointment over a nine year on-again off-again relationship. And finally, in "Deer Head in the Closet," a faux trophy stands in for a father's approbation.

Loss of one kind or another was, in this case, the reader's gain; the handset type and illustration is the reader's delight.

WELLS & SONNE is a 72-page, letterpress printed book of six original short stories. The type is handset Cheltenham OS in various weights and sizes and is printed on Gutenberg #130. The book is illustrated with six original illustrations that are printed on Kitakata Natural. The book is editioned to 70 copies with the first 60 copies a standard edition with black and white illustrations and Canson Ivy end sheets. The deluxe copies, #61 to 70, are slip cased, have goat skin spines, handmade end sheets and brass inlaid title plates. Both deluxe and standard books are bound up with sewn on boards. The book measures 11" x 11" when laid open flat.

- Craig Jobson, Publisher



Opening to Pushcart nominated "The Heart of God" by Chelsea Laine Wells.



Deluxe copy is bound with sewn on boards, goat skin spine, and metal inlaid title plate. Open book measures 11" x 11."

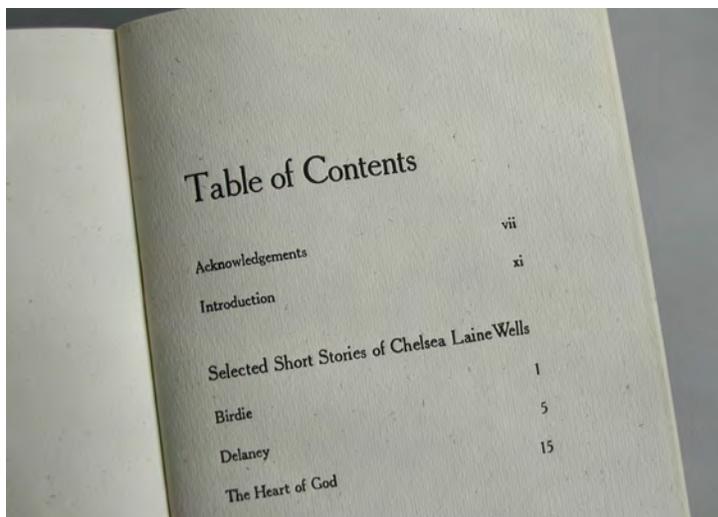
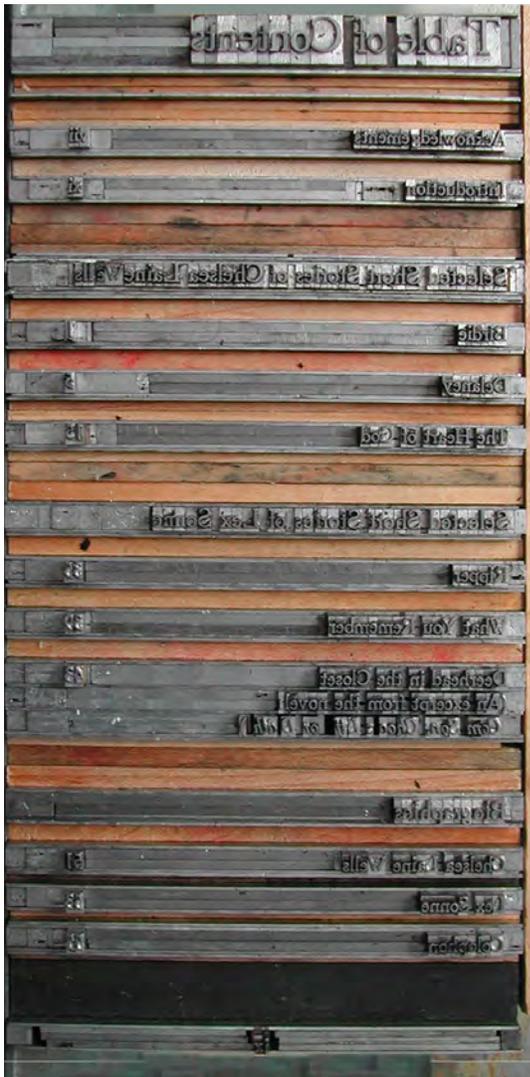
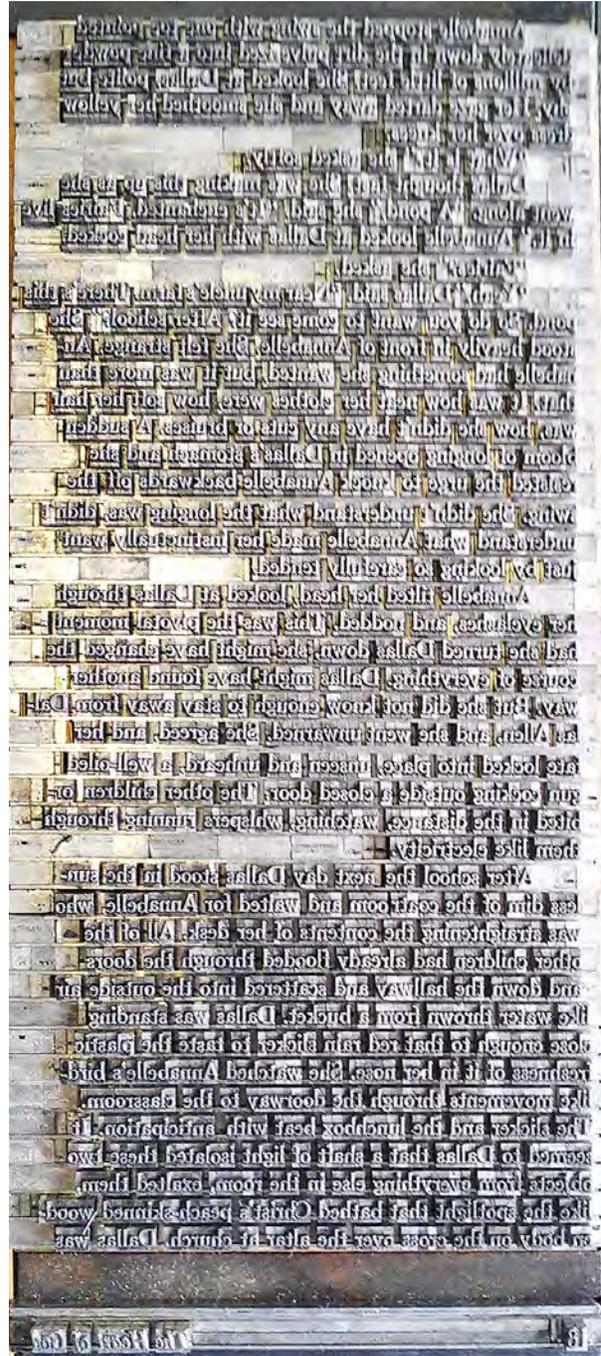


Table of Contents includes introduction, stories, biographies and colophon.



Above: 3.5" x 8.5" Table of Contents in galley form with text separated by wooden reglet.

Right: Photo of page in galley form. Each full page measures 4.5" x 10.5" and contains over 2,700 hand set characters.



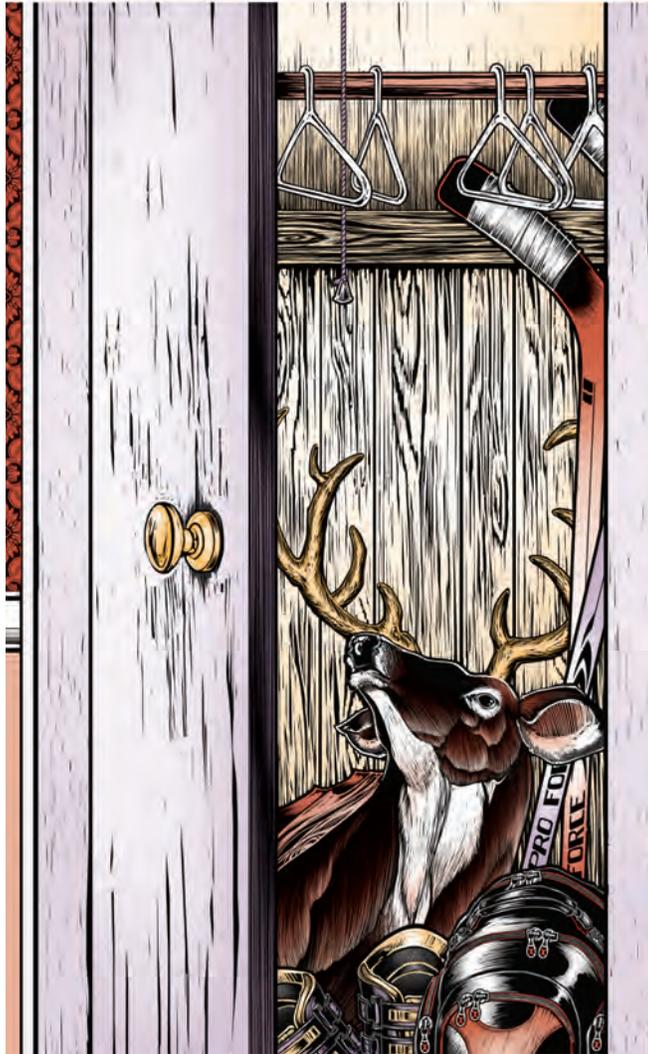


Front cover illustration for "Birdie"



Front cover illustration for "Ripper"

Front cover: Front cover illustration for "The Heart of God"
Back cover: Front cover illustration for "Deer Head in the Closet"



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