



## Damned If I Do: Stories

By Percival Everett



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Damned If I Do is an exceptional new collection of short stories by Percival Everett, author of the highly praised and wickedly funny novel *Erasure*

*People are just naturally hopeful, a term my grandfather used to tell me was more than occasionally interchangeable with stupid.*

A cop, a cowboy, several fly fishermen, and a reluctant romance novelist inhabit these revealing and often hilarious stories. An old man ends up in a high-speed car chase with the cops after stealing the car that blocks the garbage bin at his apartment building. A stranger gets a job at a sandwich shop and fixes everything in sight: a manual mustard dispenser, a mouthful of crooked teeth, thirty-two parking tickets, and a sexual-identity problem.

Percival Everett is a master storyteller who ingeniously addresses issues of race and prejudice by simultaneously satirizing and celebrating the human condition.

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## Damned If I Do: Stories By Percival Everett Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Novelist and satirist Everett (*Erasure; A History of the African American People (Proposed)* by Strom Thurmond) gives his own particular spin to tales of fly-fishing and the American South and West in his second short story collection. In "Alluvial Deposits," a hydrologist encounters a Colorado woman who refuses to give him permission to inspect an aquifer on her land. After she tells him off, "she slam[s] the door and manage[s] to squeeze the word *nigger* through the last, skinniest gap." Racial conflict filters into most of the 12 stories, which are told with a raw simplicity that stands in bracing contrast to forays into the surreal. In "Epigenesis," a fly-fisherman catches a three-and-a-half-foot-long talking trout, which gives him advice that helps save his marriage. As he has in previous works, Everett strives to demythologize the American South. In one of the strongest stories, "The Appropriation of Cultures," a young, Ivy league-educated black guitarist living in South Carolina buys a pick-up truck with a Confederate flag sticker on it. As he drives the truck around town, he's threatened by hostile white Southerners, but manages to start a revolution of sorts as an increasing number of black Southerners co-opt the flag and fly it as their own. Clever and thought-provoking, this is a memorable collection.

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From [Booklist](#)

Everett's wit and wry observations are in abundance in this collection of short stories. The locales range from urban to desert, characters range from a black hydrologist with the Fish and Game Commission to old Hispanic men to men of uncertain age and ethnicity--all searching for a sense of place and identity. A man with a mysterious gift for fixing broken objects, from toasters to sexual confusion to the recently deceased, is overwhelmed by the demands of a needy public; a male romance writer finds his peaceful New Mexico retreat threatened by the encroachment of development; a young black musician embraces the racially charged symbols meant to degrade him and turns them back on his would-be tormentors. Action is slow paced, leaving more emphasis to character development, dialogue, detail, and underlying sensibilities that evoke sly humor and sharp social commentary. Readers who enjoyed Everett's *Erasure* (2001) will find this collection quite appealing. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"It's hard to pigeonhole Percival Everett. Working between the traditions of the academy and the African American tall tale, he writes with a sharp satirical voice." *?Playboy*

"I think Percival Everett is a genius. He's a brilliant writer and so damn smart I envy him." *?Terry McMillan*

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Linda Pinkerton:**

The book Damned If I Do: Stories gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book Damned If I Do: Stories to become

your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like available and read a e-book Damned If I Do: Stories. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

**Maria Smith:**

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try point that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Damned If I Do: Stories, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

**Michelle Fulk:**

Damned If I Do: Stories can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into delight arrangement in writing Damned If I Do: Stories but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

**Mario Curtin:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got college students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important along with book as to be the point. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update about something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this Damned If I Do: Stories.

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