

# Don't Ask Me To Spell It Out

Robert James Russell

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A great storm and its effect on a young family; a woman with a rifle in a barren landscape; boys discovering the world of possibility in online sexuality; a couple at a scenic overlook, their relationship at the verge of dissolution. Each story in Don't Ask Me to Spell It Out is a sliver of time pulled from the life of a young man, each a fragment of feeling, each a pivotal intersection of relationships. They are stories about the desperation of trying to fit in and find a kindred, to understand the elusive essence of love in all forms, to fill a void of solitude that only seems to grow as we do. They navigate the mysteries of relationships between men and women, of family and geography, and find a recurring theme of abject longing throughout.

<http://whiskeypaper.com/chapbooks/rob...>

## Don't Ask Me to Spell It Out Details

Date : Published March 2015 by WhiskeyPaper Press

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Author : Robert James Russell

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Genre : Short Stories

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## From Reader Review Don't Ask Me to Spell It Out for online ebook

### **Robyn says**

Loved these stories, each one like a brief visit back to your youth. Exact in the details in a way that has you saying, "Yes, it was just like that."

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### **Ben says**

I bought this chapbook at AWP in Minneapolis and after a hectic summer I finally had the opportunity to read it--which I did in a single night, thus making me feel silly for not reading it earlier. These small, sharp stories are draped in nostalgia, regret, and--in some cases--hope. 'As You Wish They Were' and 'Claude,' both featuring characters as much on the verge of something less as they are on the verge of something more, grasping for something that is already gone and might never have been there in the first place.

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### **Mae says**

This chapbook is really enjoyable. While the stories are brief and it is tempting to blaze through it quickly because the Russell's writing style makes you want to keep reading to see what gem lies ahead, you may be better served by reading and really reflecting on what is actually happening and the moments in your life that the story may remind you of. I love sparse, powerful, thoughtful word choice and Don't Ask Me to Spell It Out gave me that.

My copy was provided by the Goodreads FirstReads program at no charge to me.

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### **Karrie Higgins says**

Robert James Russell is the Midwestern Raymond Carver. I loved this book so much that I devoured the whole thing in one greedy, hungry gulp. It felt familiar and strange at the same time. I'm an Iowa girl, so THESE ARE MY PEOPLE. And yet, like a good anthropologist, Russell has a way of making the familiar strange. I want to read everything I can get my hands on by him.

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### **Sharron says**

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway. Loved the short stories.

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### **Sara says**

read it, loved it, blurbed it.

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### **Nate says**

Ok. So I'm biased. I kinda, sorta lived some of this. Sort of. Russell is my oldest and best friend, so yes, I am biased. This little chapbook is a journey through life. Coming of age. Growing up. The uncertainty of love and life after the innocence of childhood washes away. Really beautiful little collection of short stories.

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### **Ben says**

Read it. And blurbed it, yo.

“Don’t Ask Me To Spell It Out takes flight in the jagged chasm between who we are and who we want to be, starkly illustrating how we love, and lose, only to re-build ourselves again.”

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### **Leesa says**

My little press (WhiskeyPaper) published this and IT IS GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL AND YOU WILL LOVE IT. I am v. skilled @ knowing things like this, trust. xx

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