Cary Holladay is one of the best writers in the United States you don’t know of. The author of two previous short story collections, *The People Down South* and *The Palace of Wasted Footsteps*, and one novel *Mercury*, Holladay has authored a new story collection as moving as it is elegant. Many of the stories in *The Quick-Change Artist* originally appeared in top-notch literary magazines, yet there’s not a story here to be overlooked. All feature Holladay’s precise prose and well-rendered Virginia settings. Her characters’ are obsessed with the past and long for a different life, but obligations hold Holladay’s characters back and he chance for a different life slips away. Don’t let the work of one of the great contemporary story writers slip through your hands. Read this book.

—Carmen Edington