THE DOGS ARE WATCHING. LISTEN, THE EGGS ARE CRACKING. THEY ARE TOLD TO STAY, DON’T RUN. THEY ONCE WERE TOLD YELLOW IS THE COLOR OF HAPPINESS.

Leftwich’s characters curve out of what is expected: they surprise you, they confess, they hide, they snark, they love and long.

— ELLE NASH, author of Animals Eat Each other

The pieces feel like pages ripped from the diaries of lost souls, sometimes deadpan & direct, sometimes fluttering through fever dreams & teetering realities in which intimates reveals themselves to be a hole.

— MATHIAS SVALINA, author of The Wine-Dark Sea

Leftwich has written something special where vulnerability is a form of resistance. Where vulnerability drags shame and guilt from their shadows and sets them on tables as centerpieces so we can view them from all angles.

— STEVEN DUNN, author of Potted Meat

This wonderful book is made of lightning bolts and thunderclaps. Each page is a different kind of human storm. Some carry you up into the sky, others send the moon careening down to you.

Hillary Leftwich is an extraordinary talent.

— BUD SMITH, author of WORK

Ghosts Are Just Strangers Who Know How to Knock

by Hillary Leftwich

Ghosts Are Just Strangers Who Know How to Knock is a multi-genre collection that examines grief, violence, heartbreak, and the universal challenge of living in a body that is always vulnerable. In this greyscale kaleidoscope of the familiar and the uncanny, muted voices shout, people commit to devastating choices, and mundane moments are filled with silent hauntings. A sleep paralysis and a séance of voices long dead, this collection’s characters illuminate both our own darkness and our strength, revealing how love can emerge from the most impossible of conditions.

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