



## Nickels: A Tale of Dissociation (Reflections of America)

By Christine Stark

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**Nickels: A Tale of Dissociation (Reflections of America)** By Christine Stark

**"...a perfect genius that makes the impossible in expression, possible; the unknowable in experience, knowable"**

--Anya Achtenberg, author of *The Stories of Devil-Girl*

*Nickels* follows a biracial girl named "Little Miss So and So", from age 4-1/2 into adulthood. Told in a series of prose poems, *Nickels'* lyrical and inventive language conveys the dissociative states born of a world formed by persistent and brutal incest and homophobia. The dissociative states enable the child's survival and, ultimately, the adult's healing. The story is both heartbreaking and triumphant. *Nickels* is the groundbreaking debut of Minneapolis-area author and artist Christine Stark.

"Christine Stark has crafted a language and a diction commensurate with the shredding of consciousness that is a consequence of childhood sexual abuse. She brings us a wholly original voice in a riveting novel of desperation and love. Every sentence vibrates with a terrible beauty. Every sentence brings the news."  
--Patricia Weaver Francisco, author of *Telling: A Memoir of Rape and Recovery*

"To be taken into the mind of a child can be an enchanting adventure, but to be taken into the mind of a child who is abused, confused, and taken for granted is a lingering, vivid journey. I applaud her fortitude to bring an olden--too long ignored-- truth out of the darkness with blazing, innovative light."  
--MariJo Moore, author of *The Diamond Doorknob*

"In *Nickels*, Christine Stark, powerfully portrays the story of abuse and its impact on our lives. When this beautifully written and compelling story leaves, you are left wanting more. It's riveting; a book that will capture you from the beginning and carry you through the end. Everyone should read this book."  
--Olga Trujillo, author of *The Sum of My Parts*

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Anya Achtenberg, an award-winning fiction writer as well as poet, recently has seen her novella *The Stories of Devil-Girl* released on CD, and her novel-in-progress, *More Than the Wind*, excerpted in *Harvard Review*. Her first book of poetry, *I Know What the Small Girl Knew*, was published by Holy Cow! Press. She has taught creative writing widely, including at New York University, Hamline University, and the University of New Mexico; for writers' organizations such as The International Women's Writing Guild and The Loft in Minnesota; and with young adults re-entering school. She teaches courses on Writing for Social Change, sometimes co-teaching with writer-activist Demetria Mart nez.

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