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Announcing the October 2016 publication of

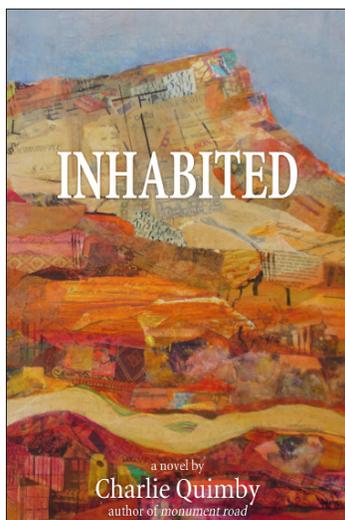
INHABITED

A NOVEL BY CHARLIE QUIMBY

author of *Monument Road*

"Charlie Quimby is a writer with a big talent, big heart, and big social conscience. I was staggered by the authenticity of these people and their dilemmas."

—FAITH SULLIVAN, author of *Goodnight, Mr. Wodehouse* and *The Cape Ann*



Meg Mogrin sells pricey houses, belongs to the mayor's inner circle, and knows more than she's letting on about her sister's death. Isaac Samson lives in a tent and believes Thomas Edison invented the Reagan presidency. When their Colorado town attracts a game-changing development, Isaac is displaced by the town's crackdown on vagrancy. As Isaac struggles to regain stability, Meg contends with conflicting roles of assisting the developer while serving on the homeless coalition. Isaac's quest to return a lost artifact soon intrudes into Meg's tidy world, digging up a part of her past she'd rather remained buried.

Inhabited allows readers into the minds of two vastly different individuals. Isaac's mind, fueled by a degree in library science and a thirst for facts, is plagued by voices. Meg is preoccupied with keeping up appearances, haunted by long-ago events on Cold Shivers Point, and advised by the voice of a long-dead younger sister. Readers are also taken into vastly different homes: a dusty *campito* trailer in the desert, a sprawling ranch house with sunrise views, a sleeping bag under a bridge. With humor, compassion, and candor, *Inhabited* challenges our notions of home and community, exploring the ways in which our lives overlap, regardless, or perhaps because, of where we live.

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EARLY PRAISE FOR INHABITED

"A dramatic, honest, humane portrait of a Colorado city in the throes of great change and great choice. We're all in the mix here—rich and poor, homeless and over-housed, rancher and eco-activist, native politician and outside scoundrel. *Inhabited* is a vivid, compelling story delivered with 21st-century true grit." —ALYSON HAGY, author of *Boleto*

"A thoroughly enjoyable novel that masterfully takes the reader on an emotionally rewarding exploration of 'home'" —JONATHAN ODELL, author of *Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League*

"*Inhabited* transforms a typical community 'homeless problem' into a layered drama about our responsibilities to each other and the blunders and scars we must endure. I salute Charlie Quimby for following the path of Steinbeck and Orwell in writing empathetic portraits of the ignored and the shunned." —JIM LYNCH, author of *Before the Wind*

"[*Inhabited*] wrings empathy out of readers' hearts like nothing else I've encountered recently." —MARGIE WILSON, Grand Valley Books

"Charlie Quimby's characters are beautifully nuanced, complex, and well-developed." —PAMELA KLINGER-HORN, Excelsior Bay Books

"Quimby deftly weaves a tale of how...at the end of the day, all any of us want is a place to call home." —ANNE HOLMAN, The King's English Bookshop

"Quimby has created characters that inhabit your mind even when you're not reading the book!" —GAYLE SHANKS, Changing Hands Bookstore

"Quimby writes a wise tale of the why and how people live together, housebound and homeless—all alike in their desires." —BARBARA THEROUX, Fact & Fiction

"I think about [*Inhabited*] every day. What more can you ask for from a great book?" —MARYA JOHNSTON, Out West Books

ABOUT CHARLIE QUIMBY

Charlie Quimby's debut novel, *Monument Road*, was an Indie Next pick, a Booklist Editors' Choice 2013 and a Reading the West finalist. Before turning to fiction, he was an award-winning writer and marketing agency owner who co-authored *Planning to Stay*, a guide for how residents can shape development in their communities. His nonfiction has appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *High Country News* and the *Harvard Business Review*, and two of his plays have been produced. A native Coloradan and adopted Minnesotan, he makes home in both places and tells stories about homelessness in his blog at charliequimby.com.



A FEW QUESTIONS FOR CHARLIE

What inspired you to write your book?

Some events in *Inhabited* are inspired in part by events in the homeless community that occurred over the last decade in Grand Junction. The city did undertake an extensive cleanup of the river that impacted both the natural environment as well as the human settlement in camps along the river. There were incidents of conflict between police and campers as well as local residents. There was also a coalition to end homelessness similar to the one in the story, a movement to clean up the city parks and an exploration of setting up a tent city that went nowhere. The events in the book are loosely based on those realities, though they have been changed and moved forward in time.

The other strong influence on this theme has been my personal experience as a volunteer at a day center that serves homeless individuals in Grand Junction and at a family shelter in Minneapolis. Some of the homeless characters in *Inhabited* have borrowed aspects of individuals I have met during this time.

Why did you give it this title?

I settled on *Inhabited* because it alludes to occupation of place as well as a building, which the story is very much about. A place that is inhabited already contains life and it sets up all kinds of signals and expectations about how we are allowed to interact with a place. Are we welcome? Maybe not. For me, the word *inhabited* has the connotation of being haunted. Thus the title refers not just to the places where the characters dwell but what dwells within the characters. Place and spirit and thoughts are all linked.

Tell us more about the environmental concerns addressed in your novel.

In this novel, I'm most concerned about the interface between people and natural resources. Of course, the Colorado River's vital for most of the human and agricultural life west of the Rockies, as well as shaping the identity of the west. One of the story's main threads concerns the river as a corridor and how the town, like many others, turned its back to the river, using it as a dumping ground or a way to get rid of waste. Like most rivers in the west, it is not navigable for commerce, so it is used and abused. The poor residents claimed this rejected space for themselves, the wealthy and active outdoors people have begun to reclaim the river, thus setting up new conflicts.

More with Charlie on the Consortium Bookslinger blog: <http://bit.ly/1YrOGt3>

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Voices for the Land

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