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# BOOK NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## The End of the Book

*Porter Shreve's Fourth Novel Examines Book Culture through the Lens of a Forgotten Classic*

*"Shreve's homage, like Michael Cunningham's of Virginia Woolf in *The Hours*, both pays tribute to a master storyteller while enacting a completely satisfying and original and engaging novel in its own right. A distinctive and seductive book that deftly melds author/character/writer/reader." --Antonya Nelson, author of *Bound and Nothing Right**

**Baton Rouge**—*The End of the Book* is the story of an aspiring contemporary novelist who may or may not be writing a sequel to Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*. Adam Clary works in Chicago for a famous Internet company on a massive project to digitize the world's books, but secretly he hates his job and wishes to be a writer at a time when the book as physical object and book culture itself have never been more threatened. He is the son of a dissipated Anderson scholar, thus his obsession with *Winesburg*.

Counterpointing Adam's story is that of George Willard, the young protagonist of Anderson's book, who arrives in Chicago around 1900 when it was the fastest growing city in the history of the world. Through alternating chapters, we follow George's travails, including his marriage to the wealthy daughter of his boss, his affair with his hometown sweetheart, and his artistic crisis, breakdown and flight. Along the way we see the echoes and intersections between his life and Adam's struggling in two similar Americas, two similar times in the life of the book.

**Porter Shreve** is the author of three previous novels: *The Obituary Writer* was a *New York Times* Notable Book; and *Drives Like a Dream* and *When the White House Was Ours* were both *Chicago Tribune* Books of the Year. Shreve is coeditor of six anthologies, and his fiction, nonfiction, op-eds and book reviews have appeared in *Salon*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. A native of Washington, D.C., he spent a number of years in Chicago and the Midwest, and now lives with his wife and children in the Bay Area.

February 2014 / 232 pages, 6 x 9 / 978-0-8071-5622-3 / Paper \$22.50, ebook available  
LSU Press Paperback Original / Fiction

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