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BOOK NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSU Press to Publish *Tough Day for the Army* in September 2014 *Editor of McSweeney's Internet Tendency Releases First Short Story Collection*

John Warner's *Tough Day for the Army*, the newest entry in LSU Press's Yellow Shoe Fiction series, moves from hilarious and biting to unsettling and sad—sometimes within the span of a few pages. Mining the absurdities, confusions, and hypocrisies of our contemporary times, Warner's stories raise questions such as: What would happen if Jesus Christ played minor league hockey before he became the Son of God ("Second Careers")? What would you do if a group of poets in search of inspiration appeared on your farm ("Poet Farmers")?

Many of the stories upend expectations of the act of storytelling, as in "Corrections and Clarifications," written entirely in the form of newspaper corrections, or "Return-to-Sensibility Problems after Penetrating Captive Bolt Stunning of Cattle in Commercial Beef Slaughter Plant #5867: Confidential Report," which begins as a straightforward account of slaughterhouse operations but quickly devolves into something wholly surprising and different.

Warner's relentlessly inventive stories are reminiscent of the works of Donald Barthelme, George Saunders, and Amy Hempel. With comic and tender rambunctiousness, his satirical voice parries and thrusts its way through each narrative, combining a strong wit with a soft heart.

John Warner is the author of *The Funny Man* as well as three other books. His short fiction has appeared, among other places, in *Ninth Letter*, *McSweeney's*, *Zoetrope All-Story Extra*, and *Salon*. He is the editor at large of *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and a weekly columnist for the *Printers Row*, the literary supplement for the *Chicago Tribune*.

September 2014
168 pages, 5.5 x 8.5
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Fiction

To learn more or request a review copy of *Tough Day for the Army*, please contact:
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