

A SPECTRAL HUE

CRAIG LAURANCE GIDNEY

For generations, the marsh-surrounded town of Shimmer, Maryland has played host to a loose movement of African-American artists, all working in different media, but all utilizing the same haunting color. Landscape paintings, trompe l'oeil quilts, decorated dolls, mixed-media assemblages, and more, all featuring the same peculiar hue, a shifting pigment somewhere between purple and pink, the color of the salt-marsh orchid, a rare and indigenous flower.

Graduate student Xavier Wentworth has been drawn to Shimmer, hoping to study the work of artists like quilter Hazel Whitby and landscape painter Shadrach Grayson in detail, having experienced something akin to an epiphany when viewing a Hazel Whitby tapestry as a child. Xavier will find that others, too, have been drawn to Shimmer, called by something more than art, something in the marsh itself, a mysterious, spectral hue.

From Lambda Literary Award-nominated author Craig Lurance Gidney (*Sea, Swallow Me & Other Stories*, *Skin Deep Magic*) comes *A Spectral Hue*, a novel of art, obsession, and the ghosts that haunt us all.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Lurance Gidney is the author of the collections *Sea, Swallow Me & Other Stories* (Lethe Press, 2008), *Skin Deep Magic* (Rebel Satori Press, 2014), the Young Adult novel *Bereft* (Tiny Satchel Press, 2013) and *The Nectar of Nightmares* (Dim Shores, 2015). His work has been nominated for the Lambda Literary and Gaylactic Spectrum Awards, and he has won both the Bronze Moonbeam and Silver Independent Publishers Book Awards. He lives in his native Washington, DC. Visit him online at craiglaurancegidney.com.



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