



## The Tenth Inning / Doug Hoekstra

Welcome to **The Tenth Inning**, Doug Hoekstra's latest prose collection and first full-length tome since his 2007 debut, *Bothering the Coffee Drinkers*.

Whereas *Bothering* wove its metaphors and narratives through a bevy of music-related prose, *The Tenth Inning* reflects the shimmer of the baseball diamond, presenting an intriguing roster of previously published and newly minted poems, songs, and stories. Indeed, Hoekstra previously spent many years in the tower of song, and was regularly lauded for his ability to craft and perform **"beautifully spare songs that contain genius-level observations about people."** (Jeff Vandermeer, *Amazon.com*). Whether sung or stated, details and observations looking outward call us within. *The Tenth Inning* focuses on the human condition and the emotions therein. It's a modest book, but we hope you enjoy it and spread the word to friends, readers, and listeners.

**BIO:** Hoekstra's short stories, essays, and poems have appeared in numerous literary journals; he was nominated for the Pushcart Prize for his tale "The Blarney Stone" (2006) and received a Bronze Medal for Best Short Fiction in the Independent Publisher Awards (IPPYs) for *Bothering the Coffee Drinkers* (2007) **"Music runs like a liquid vein through these 80-proof experiences. Hoekstra pours it out with a Dylan-esque fervor, giving us a sputtering catalog of beauties and terrors..."** (*Paste Magazine*). The *Bothering* experience also included stellar print reviews and signature appearances at the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville and World Café's Summer Listening Series hosted by David Dye.

Hoekstra is/was a singer-songwriter troubadour who released nine "critically acclaimed" albums of original material on labels on both sides of the pond, touring throughout the U.S. and Europe, performing at bookstores, coffeehouses, clubs, libraries, pubs, festivals, radio stations, and castles; solo and with combos in tow. Highlights included Nashville Music Award and Independent Music Award nominations, lots of Top 10 lists, and many groovy times. As the pundits used to say, **"a lot of people write songs, Hoekstra writes five-minute worlds"** (*Wired Magazine*).

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### Prose Line-up

#### **The Tenth Inning**

(5 Minute Books, February 2015)

#### **Bothering the Coffee Drinkers**

(Canopic Publishing, June 2006)

#### **Many literary zines over the ages:**

*20Twenty Journal*, *Arctic Tusk*, *Baseball Bard*, *The Big Muddy*, *Bouillabaisse*, *Brilliant Flash Fiction*, *Broke Bohemian*, *The Canopic Jar*, *Deep South Magazine*, *Dirty Chai*, *Door is Ajar*, *Elysian Fields Quarterly*, *Epiphany*, *Flying Shoes* (U.K.), *Friday Flash Fiction*, *Gambling the Aisle*, *Hobart Pulp*, *Ink 19*, *Juke Jar*, *The Maverick Press*, *The Minneapolis Review of Baseball*, *On the Tracks*, *The Palo Alto Review*, *Paste Magazine*, *Pure Music*, *Second Hand Stories* (w/podcast), *Si Señor*, *Southern Hum*, *Spitball*, *Stories About Ticket Stubs*, *Sugar Mule*, *Twenty20*, and *Threshold* (DePaul University).

More on the music **line-up** at:

<https://www.facebook.com/doughoekstramusic/>  
<https://doughoekstra.wordpress.com>



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### Some of Doug's aforementioned "stellar print reviews" ....

"*Bothering The Coffee Drinkers* establishes Doug Hoekstra as an outstanding writer and essayist, someone just as skilled in penning stories and essays as songs." (*Nashville City Paper*)

"Music, it seems, carries with it a kind of hopes-and-dreams collective unconsciousness, and Hoekstra, with *Bothering the Coffee Drinkers*, taps gleefully into that astral plane." (*Harp Magazine*)

**"A grounded, informative, extraordinary piece of work."**  
(*Pop Matters.Com*)

"The characters of *Bothering the Coffee Drinkers* are portrayed throughout with dignity, empathy and compassion....enthraling fiction and what should prove to be one of the best fictional debuts of this year." (*Pennyblack Music UK*).

"*Bothering the Coffee Drinkers* is a collection of essays and fiction that are engaging enough to keep the most nonmusical person interested, but every now and then his rock and roll heart takes over. When the backbeat stops, Hoekstra's words still find a way to jump off the page." (*Time Out Chicago*)

Doug Hoekstra has earned kudos for his songwriting (deservedly so) and on this his first book shows that he has a knack for the long form as well...Hoekstra has an ear for the way people talk- and why. Unique characters abound in these tales, but they exist as real people, not props. The conflict between the act of creation and the tiresome drudge of commerce fuels much of this book, and as a performer Hoekstra has seen both. His storytelling skills are only glimpsed here, and one wishes for a novel perhaps, but for now, *Bothering The Coffee Drinkers* will have to do. And by the way, anyone who has played their heart out while yapping goofs slurp lattes or Jack Daniels know what a perfect title this book has!" (*James Mann, The Big Takeover*)

"*Bothering the Coffee Drinkers*" is a delicious collection of story essays by Nashville-based singer and songwriter Doug Hoekstra that could be set to music as songs, or perhaps vice versa. **Hoekstra is a talented independent performer and gifted songwriter, so it comes as no surprise that he can also write creative fiction...Hoekstra writes in a style that could safely be called eclectic, but that doesn't do his either his music or his literary genius true justice.** He is like a quirky art collector, putting together odd bits and ends, and then making them into something with an effect so much more than the mere sum of their collective oddities. Hoekstra sandwiches his story essays with a biographical beginning and end piece that is also very effective. It grounds the reading with an even more pronounced flavor of the author's presence and outlook. *Bothering the Coffee Drinkers* is very readable, very enjoyable, and very highly recommended to consumers of good music and well crafted literature." (*Midwest Book Review*)

