



Ten Seconds In-Between

By Doug Hoekstra

Ten Seconds In-Between, Doug Hoekstra's fourth book and latest collection of short stories, was published in June 2021 – winning the Royal Dragonfly Award for Best Collection of Short Stories, 2021, and placing as finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, 2022. As Hoekstra's introduction says:

“There's something elusive yet immediate about the characters in these pieces, and the line in one key work reads “You remember reading somewhere that psychologists say when people meet, they decide within 7 and 17 seconds whether or not they will like each other. You wonder about the 10 seconds in between.”

“Doug Hoekstra's stories, like his songs, are infinitely and irresistibly relatable, leaving us not with answers so much as a sense that someone else understands the struggle. Hoekstra has a knack for finding small moments that test us or reveal us and dramatizing them with candor and just a touch of lyricism when the moment is right. I don't just enjoy his work—I trust it.”

—Justin Hamm, author of *American Ephemeral* and *Lessons in Ruin*

“Ten Seconds In-Between is a collection of relationship stories, full of interactions where something significant happens and maybe only one of those involved realizes or understands. You'll travel to Liverpool and Alcatraz, meet poets and blind street vendors. There's sex and music, dirty laundry cleaned and a light but sure touch when it comes to politics. Hoekstra's talent as a writer shines a light on how these relationships are often simply taken for granted, only to be reimagined on the page and in our collective memory.”

—Steve Roberts, author and composer of *The Library Project*

“Hoekstra writes evocatively of real characters often knocked off centre from their comfort zone, and Ten Seconds In-Between reveals a multi-layered, versatile writer of haunting talent.”

—John Clarkson, *Pennyblack Music UK*

Title: Ten Seconds In-Between

Author: Doug Hoekstra

Genre: Short Fiction

Better Than Starbucks Publications

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Doug Hoekstra is a Chicago-bred, Nashville-based creative whose poems, performances, songs, and stories, have crisscrossed the globe in publications and playlists, his eight CDs and four books earning Independent Publisher Award (Bronze Medal/Short Fiction), Royal Dragonfly, Next Generation Indie Book Awards, Nashville Music Award, and Independent Music Award nominations, as well as a legion of friends and fans. His latest work (2021) includes *The Day Deserved* album (10 songs) *Ten Seconds In-Between* collection of short stories. www.doughoekstra.net