

**BOOKLIST Review, 6/3/2010**  
**By Steve Glassman**

Hendricks (*Miami Purity*, 1995) may be the least commercial but most literary of Florida crime writers. Her new collection will do nothing to dispel either of these claims.

As the title suggests, these stories evoke Flannery O'Connor and Erskine Caldwell. The voice in each is as strong as the characters are weird. For example, the viewpoint character in the lead story escapes to Florida from a life of drudgery in Quebec. She becomes impregnated—brace yourself—by Stormy, an amorous dolphin. Risking all, Cherie steals a kayak and a pair of bolt cutters. She breaches Stormy's pen, but he refuses to elope with her. He doesn't want to hunt for a living, having grown accustomed to the easy diet of dead fish. Her abusive husband decides being cuckolded by a dolphin is not really cheating. He arrives to carry Cherie and her mermaid baby, Mineaux (Minnow), back to the dull but reliable life of Quebec.

In his afterword to these stories, Michael Connelly makes the point that all good writers simply write the truth, as they see it. Hendricks' truth is both idiosyncratic and compelling.