

K. L. Cook Biography

Short K. L. Cook Bio

K. L. Cook is the author of a novel, *The Girl from Charnelle* (2006), and a collection of linked stories, *Last Call* (2004), which won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. His fiction and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and magazines, including *Poets & Writers*, *Threepenny Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Witness*, and *Harvard Review*. He teaches at Prescott College and in Spalding University's MFA in Writing Program.

Detailed K. L. Cook Bio

K. L. Cook is the author of a novel, *The Girl from Charnelle* (William Morrow/Harper Collins 2006), and a collection of linked stories, *Last Call* (University of Nebraska 2004), which won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. His fiction and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and magazines, including *Poets & Writers*, *Threepenny Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Witness*, *American Short Fiction*, *Arts & Letters*, *Post Road*, *Colorado Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *Harvard Review*, and in the forthcoming anthologies, *Write Now: Writing Exercises from Today's Best Writers and Teachers* (Tarcher/Penguin 2006) and *Teen: When I Was a Loser* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster 2007). He teaches creative writing and literature at Prescott College and is a member of the graduate faculty of Spalding University's MFA in Writing Program. Awards for his work include the grand prize in the Santa Fe Writers' Project Literary Arts Series, an Arizona Commission on the Arts fellowship, several Pushcart Prize nominations, and residency fellowships from the Corporation of Yaddo, Blue Mountain Center, and the MacDowell Colony. He lives with his wife, playwright Charissa Menefee, and their four children in Prescott, Arizona.

Both *Last Call* and *The Girl from Charnelle* focus on a single West Texas family and are set primarily in the fictional Panhandle town of Charnelle. While *Last Call* spans thirty-two years, from 1958-1990, in the lives of several members of this family and ranges in location from Charnelle to the Costa Rican jungle to the Las Vegas Strip, *The Girl From Charnelle* focuses on the middle child, Laura Tate, during a single pivotal year, 1960.

Kirkus Reviews, in a starred review, called *Last Call* "a family's tragic trajectory viewed through the kaleidoscope of time in stories that make an immensely satisfying whole." *Library Journal*, also in a starred review, said this about *The Girl from Charnelle*: "Set against the backdrop of the an emotional election and the start of a tumultuous decade, this atypical coming-of-age story from Cook...considers more than a young girl's erotic and emotional awakening; it's the story of an entire generation growing up too quickly... impossible to put down until the dramatic and realistic conclusion."

Cook is currently working on a new novel, tentatively titled *The Man Who Fell from the Sky*, the third book in his *Last Call* cycle.