Chris Vanjonack

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**EDUCATION**

2019 – 2022 Master of Fine Arts in Fiction; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2011 - 2015 Bachelor of Arts; Colorado State University. Majored in English Education.

**REPRESENTATION**

Literary Agent Ian Bonaparte, Janklow & Nesbit Associates; 2023 - present.

Film/TV Agents Will Watkins and Josie Freedman, Creative Artists Agency; 2023 – present.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2023 – 2025 Ohio State University; **Post-MFA Scholar**

Taught the following undergraduate classes: Intermediate Fiction Workshop, Advanced Fiction Workshop, Experimental Forms Workshop, and an online, asynchronous Monsters of Literature course; hosted independent studies with five graduate MFA students, meeting once every two weeks to discuss stories and chapters from their in-progress thesis manuscripts; served on thesis committees for undergraduate creative writing students.

2024 Denver School of the Arts; **Guest Artist**

Taught a three-week, generative speculative fiction class to high school students.

2022 One Story Inc.; **Guest Lecturer**

Taught a segment on story structure and escalation for the online generative course, “Write with *One Story* II.”

2019 – 2022 University of Illinois Urbana Champaign; **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Taught eight sections of First-Year Composition (three in-person courses, two online asynchronous courses, and three online synchronous courses), two sections of Introduction to Fiction Workshop (one in-person course and one online synchronous course), and Reading for Writers, a 200-level course craft survey exploring Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Non-Fiction (in-person course).

2021 *Champaign Public Library*: **Writing Instructor**

Organized and led a community writing workshop helping adult learners craft satisfying endings to their short fiction.

2020 Stain’d Arts; **Virtual Workshop Leader**

Co-led a month-long, generative online creative writing workshop for Denver-area writers.

2015 – 2019 Poudre School District Global Academy; **Language Arts Teacher**

Taught Creative Writing, Composition, General Language Arts, and Intervention Reading and Writing to 6th – 12th-grade students.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Fiction**

* “Lord, Deliver Me from This Awful Hunger,” forthcoming, Book of the Month Club’s *Volume 0,* 2024.
* “Open Spaces,” *Shenandoah*, 2024.
* “Admiring Bronson,” *Blue Earth Review*, 2023.
* “There’s Clowns in the Woods,” *Barrelhouse*, 2022.
* “What We Look Like Together,” *CRAFT Literary*, 2021.
* “The Constellations of Your Bedroom,” *X-R-A-Y,* 2021.
* “Rebooting *How I Met Your Mother* for the 2020-2021 Network TV Season,” *No Contact,* 2021.
* “No Such Thing as Dogs Today,” *Rejection Letters*, 2021.
* “Thunderstorm Facts,” *Hobart After Dark,* 2020.
* “Elizabeth Kaplan’s Best Day Ever,” *Quarterly West,* 2020.
  + Recipient of the 2020 AWP Intro Journals Award.
* “Invent Everything,” *Carve Magazine,* 2020*.*
* “Phases,” *One Story*, 2019.
* “Untitled Love Story – First Draft,” *Ghost Town*, 2018.
* “Tell it Like a Murder Mystery,” *The Boiler*, 2018.
* “Alive @ 148 MPH,” *The Sonder Review*, 2018.
* “Why We Burned Everything We Burned,” *After the Pause,* 2017.
* “Monkey Men,” *The Rumpus*, 2016.
* “Last Letter Home,” *New Haven Review*, 2014.

**Creative Nonfiction**

* “The Melancholy Optimism of the Never-Ending Story,” *Electric Literature,* 2023.
* “World of Khaki,” *DIAGRAM*, 2022.
* “You Will Understand After Entering,” *Potomac Review*, 2022.
* “Return to Bird Island,” *Hobart After Dark,* 2022.
* “A Survey of the Landscape,” *Ninth Letter*, 2021.
* “Nonviolent Reporting in a Year of Uprisings and Upheavals,” *Denver Westword*, 2020.

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

2024 *The Journal / OSU Press;* **Non/Fiction Collection Slash Prize Editor**

Created materials to publicize the prize’s reading period, read submissions, organized undergraduate and graduate preliminary readers, organized the prize’s editorial board, recruited and coordinated with the prize’s guest judge, and served as a liaison between the prize’s winner and employees at the OSU Press.

2022 – 2023 *Electric Literature*; **Editorial Intern**

Wrote book lists, culture essays, and news items for *Electric Literature*; read Recommended Reading submissions and managed a small team of volunteer readers; participated in editorial meetings, providing feedback on pitches and submissions; formatted, copyedited, and prepared drafts for publication on WordPress; provided research support and performed administrative tasks.

2022 – 2023 *Quarterly West*; **Book Reviews Editor**

Read book review submissions, solicited work, and edited accepted pieces.

2019 – 2022 *Ninth Letter*; **Editorial Assistant and Assistant Editor**

Reviewed submissions, performed administrative duties, and participated in editorial meetings; organized meetings and communicated with authors while working as the Assistant Fiction Editor in the Spring of 2021, and as the Assistant Creative Nonfiction Editor in the Fall of 2021.

**SERVICE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPERIENCE**

2024 - 2025 *Ohio State University Creative Writing Program*: **Thesis Committee Reader**

Served as a second reader for undergraduate creative writing students’ capstone thesis manuscripts.

2023 - 2025 *Ohio State University Creative Writing Program*: **Admissions Committee Member**

Read MFA fiction applications for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic school years, and served on the committee to narrow down our pool of applicants to the shortlist of prospective students to whom we offered admittance or a spot on the program’s waitlist.

2021 *Ninth Letter*; **Event Coordinator**

Organized readings and release parties for 2021 issues of *Ninth Letter*.

2020 – 2021 *UIUC Creative Writing Department;* **Graduate Reading Series Host**

Hosted and organized University of Illinois’s Graduate Reading Series.

2017 – 2019 *Poudre Global Academy*; **Language Arts Department Chair**

Served as the department chair for Poudre Global Academy’s middle school language arts department, collaborating with other district ELA department chairs around best pedagogical practices, curriculum adoption, and community outreach.

2017 – 2019 *Poudre Education Association*; **Poudre Global Academy Associate Representative**

Served as the school’s associate representative to Poudre Education Association.

2015 – 2019 *Poudre Global Academy*; **Club Sponsor**

Co-Sponsored Creative Writing Club (2015-2019), Allies in Diversity Club (2017-2019), and a Social Justice Book Club (2018-2019).

2014 – 2019 Slamogadro Poetry Slam; **Co-Host and Organizer**

Organized, promoted, and co-hosted a monthly poetry slam in Fort Collins, Colorado; booked featured performers; coordinated and hosted free-to-the-public writing workshops.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

2019-2022 UIUC English Department List of Teachers Recognized as Excellent.

2021 Hobart L. and Mary Kay Peer Fiction Prize for “There’s Clowns in the Woods.”

2021 Pushcart Prize nomination from *Potomac Review*.

2020 AWP Intro Journals Award for “Elizabeth Kaplan’s Best Day Ever.”

2020 Pushcart Prize nomination from *Carve Magazine*.