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| John Hunt Publishing - **Roundfire** - announces the new title | | |
| **American Fork**  George B. Handley  Zacharias Harker is a brilliant botanist and an aging recluse. Haunted by his mistakes and living without his wife and daughter, he hatches the idea to write a book on the implications of climate change for humanity focused on the wildflowers of Utah's Wasatch Mountains. Just prior to the tragedy of 9/11, he hires a young artist, Alba, to paint flowers for the book. Harker convinces Alba to return to Chile to learn the story of her father's disappearance under Pinochet. Alba's experience listening to the stories of Chileans who have resisted a government ruled by fear inspire her return to Utah with renewed purpose. As America grows more distrusting of immigration and diversity, Alba commits her art to the protection of the environment and a more inclusive meaning of belonging, while she strives to learn Harker's hidden past before it is too late. Rooted in the Mormon heritage of Utah but hemispheric in its reach, American Fork is a story of restoration and healing in the wake of loss and betrayal.  **Author Bio** George B. Handley is an internationally known literary scholar and ecocritic. A professor at Brigham Young University, George B. Handley's creative writing, literary criticism, and civic engagement focus on the intersection between religion, literature, and the environment. He lives in Utah, USA. Online: [Author Website](http://www.georgebhandley.com)  **Previous Titles** Home Waters: A Year of Recompenses on the Provo River (9781607810230) University of Utah Press, 2010. New World Poetics: Nature and the Adamic Imagination in Whitman, Neruda, and Walcott (9780820335209) University of Georgia Press, 2010.  **Endorsements** *George Handley’s novel explores deep personal questions: are family ties merely an artifact of shared ancestry, or can we claim or renounce kinship on the basis of personal affinity or revulsion? Handley’s description of the ongoing debate between a believing young woman and a grizzled religious sceptic builds to a stunning but deeply moving conclusion. The most important ecological novel set in Utah since Edward Abbey’s The Monkey Wrench Gang.* ***Paul Alan Cox, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner and TIME Hero of Medicine***  **Promotional Plans** Pre-publications endorsements, author website including blog, readings at Universities through author's wide professional network. Utah Book Festival and events in bookstores across Utah. Public radio and podcast appearances.  **USP** An artist seeks the deeper meaning of American identity, and the meaning of kinship. A tale of hope and healing across different cultures, and a celebration of Mormonism.  **Competing Books** Flight Behavior 9780062124272, by Barbara Kingsolver Harper Perennial, 2013  **Categories** FICTION (General)(FIC051000) -> Cultural Heritage(FIC051000) FICTION (General)(FIC019000) -> Literary(FIC019000) FICTION (General)(FIC026000) -> Religious(FIC026000) |  | **Publication Date** May 2018  **Paperback** ISBN: 978-1-78099-270-9 $22.95  |  £15.99 8.5x5.5 inches | 216x140 mm 400PP  **e-book** ISBN: 978-1-78099-540-3 $7.99  |  £4.99  **Library of Congress** 2017937813 |
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