

“... the literary heir to
Shelby Foote, Willa Cather,
and E. L. Doctorow.”

—Ryan Ridge, author of *New Bad News*

WINNER OF THE SHORTS AWARD
FOR AMERICANA FICTION

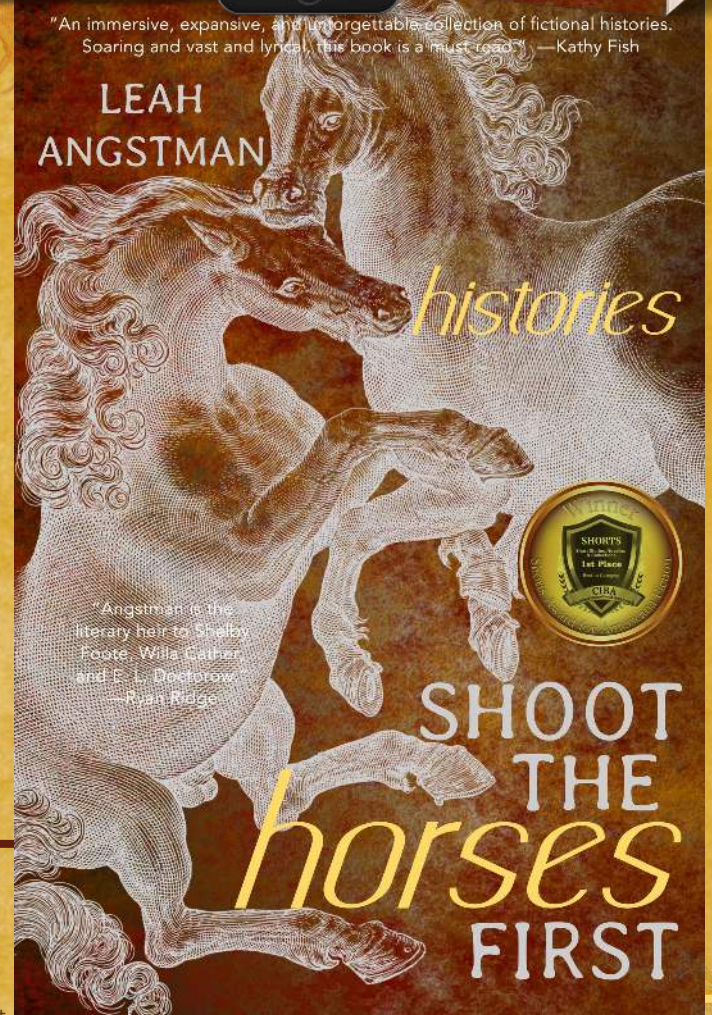
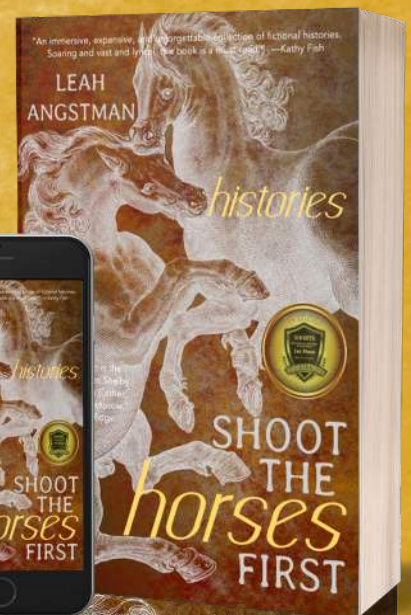
A debut collection of short histories and novellas spanning 16th- through 20th-century places and people, with themes of feminism, war, mental illness, disability, identity, & hope.

Through a historian’s lens and folkloric storytelling, the pieces in *Shoot the Horses First* revel in the nuances, brutality, mythology, and tiny victories of our historical past. A launderer takes us inside the linens of the richest families in early Baltimore. A child on the Orphan Train has his teeth inspected like a horse. Civil War soldiers experience PTSD. While one woman lands on an island of the Wampanoag tribe, a woman 200 years later finds Apache in a harsh frontier. Children survive yellow fever, the desert heat, and mistaken identities; men survive severed fingers, untested medicines, and wives with obsessive compulsive disorders. Frederick Douglass’ grandson plays violin at the World’s Fair on Colored American Day, a woman with disabilities is kept hidden away like she doesn’t exist, and a botanist is denied her place in a science journal because she is female. Themes of place, mental illness, identity, disability, feminism, and unyielding optimism throughout harrowing desperation resurface in this collection of stories that takes us back to time immemorial, yet feels so familiar.

“An immersive, expansive, and unforgettable collection of fictional histories. Soaring and vast and lyrical, this book is a must-read.” —Kathy Fish, author of *Wild Life*

“I’m astonished by the historical breadth in this collection of stories and by the sensibility that unites them. It’s a thrill to be dropped, so vividly, into such a wide variety of settings and periods—and even more of a thrill to discover the strong new voice of Leah Angstman.” —Ethan Rutherford, author of *Farthest South* and *The Peripatetic Coffin*

“Each [story] breathes troubling, beautiful life into the history that inspires it. The exhaustive research that must have gone into this collection lives in an easy harmony with the stories it undergirds, and it’s Angstman’s chief achievement here to strike that balance with poise and grace.” —Schuler Benson, author of *The Poor Man’s Guide to an Affordable, Painless Suicide*



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Short Histories by Leah Angstman

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