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PRESS RELEASE

3 FOR THE ROAD BY BRUCE LAWDER

FICTION

The three novellas gathered together here under the title *3 For The Road* are all “on the road” stories, *California* most explicitly, though the young protagonist there is not driving but driven when he arrives in California at the beginning of the book and at the end leaves it. *Schlemm* and *The Marriage Ceremony* are no less concerned with moving from one place to another, mentally and spiritually, as well as physically, and finally about disappearing, or at least disappearing from sight.

The characters are memorable survivors, though each in a different way, questing in settings that vary from a topless dance club called The American Dream to a publishing house, from an office cubicle to a New York cab, and the question their survival asks is quite simply the value of survival. Are there things we should not do? Since all three novellas take place against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, that question becomes an existential one: Is one’s own survival alone an adequate reason to take another person’s life, or is not death, no matter whose, a contradiction of survival itself as a value? What do we as human beings stand for? How far are we willing to go, to lie, for example, to kill, to compromise or not to compromise, in our search for something positive in our lives, something meaningful? Meaningful work, for example. Or a meaningful relationship. What do we refuse to do?

Bruce Lawder, an American, divides his time between an apartment in Switzerland and a house in France. In addition to writing poems, stories, plays and occasional essays on poetry, he has published articles on painting in the catalogs of a number of major museums in France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Before deciding to earn his living as a teacher, he was an actor at the Charles Street Playhouse in Boston, Massachusetts. He has published volumes of poetry as well as a book of essays, *Vers le vers*. His play, *Computer Time*, was performed at the American Theatre of Actors in New York City in 2022.

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