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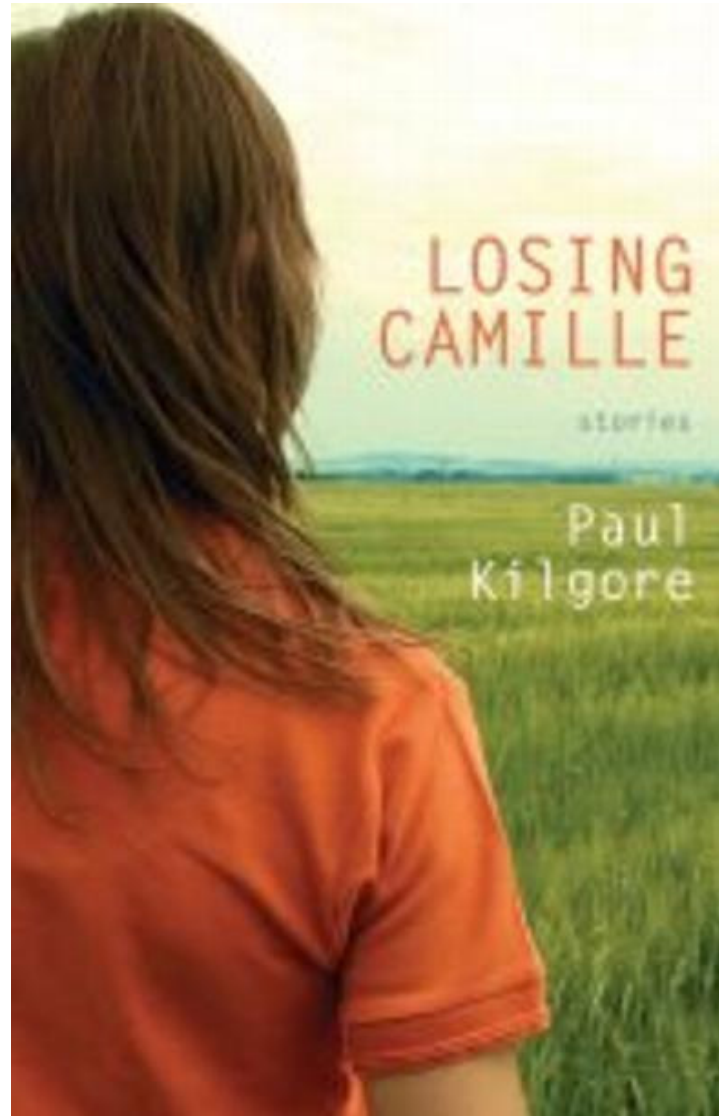
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***The Write Place At the Write  
Time Book Review- Hot off the  
Presses***



Losing Camille Cover Image

**The Write Place At the Write Time Book Review presents:  
*Losing Camille* by Paul Kilgore**

Author bio: PAUL KILGORE has practiced law since his graduation from the University of Minnesota Law School. His fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in numerous publications. He has been a columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and his work has appeared on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion. He is a past winner of Minnesota Monthly's Tamarack Award for Short Fiction. Kilgore lives with his wife and two daughters in Duluth, Minnesota.

***For further information on this book, please click on the cover image~***

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#### REVIEW~

Beginning with the dark overtones of conformity and religiosity in the opening story, "Elders", *Losing Camille* is a reflective work of the cautionary tales that come of life passages and one's ability to hold firm to their identity through them.

Though the characters range widely in age and circumstance, common threads of breaking away from community, societal or familial ties unite them. "Losing Camille", "Farm Buying", "The Gentleness of Heaven", "Passing", "Market Fair" and the protagonist's perspective in "There is no Sadness" particularly touch upon this theme as the characters harvest what they can of the past but move on toward the future with the sense of the inevitable. They battle immaturity whether imposed or internal to grow up into the next phase.

"Rule of 100" and "Roeschler's Home" still carry themes concerning the passage of time, yet the permanency is in the structures as opposed to the people or their circumstances.

In "Welcome to My World", there is a great build-up of anticipation, yet the end comes as rather anti-climatic as with "Losing Camille". The endings often seem rather muted and secondary in comparison to the rising action. Though the denouement seemingly leaves something wanting in certain instances, perhaps it is done with purpose the way that many rites of passage seem more significant when undergone at a particular age; life, love and time move on. Ambiguity cloaks many of the characters; as stated at the end of "Rule of 100", they are "anyone." The themes themselves appear to be more of the protagonists within the book. This at times creates a distance between character and reader resulting in a removed perspective that makes it difficult to feel a particular connection. Red-herrings of names assigned to phantom figures never developed within the story increase this distance. Still, if the themes are indeed intended to take precedence, they are

charmingly allowed to do so free from the constraints of a traditional format.

Reminiscent of the late 15th century "Everyman", *Losing Camille* distinguishes itself by its universal voice and broad accessibility.

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#### **FEATURED EXCERPT~**

##### *Losing Camille*

...And then one night, maybe two weeks later, Cade was over for supper. Mom found out five minutes to six and went into a fit since we were having chicken salad sandwiches. Cammy was wearing that white button-down sweater of hers, the one she keeps in the front closet, and when Cade knocked she walked to the door slowly, looking cute, I thought: tall, thin Cammy, with that long straight hair and perfect face. Dad's so funny, he noticed nothing until he sat down and looked up and spotted Cade across the table, and tried to act cool by saying hi, casually, except that he mixed Cade up with Joey Swanson, who was also on the basketball team, and said, "Hi, Joey." And the table just exploded, me and Mom and Cammy and Cade too. When everything settled down I watched Cammy and she looked at Cade, a two-of-us/three-of-them look, and then she looked down at her plate, unable to get the smile off her face. Only then did my nimble brain understand that something had happened. Cammy had fallen into love.

After that we never saw her...

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