

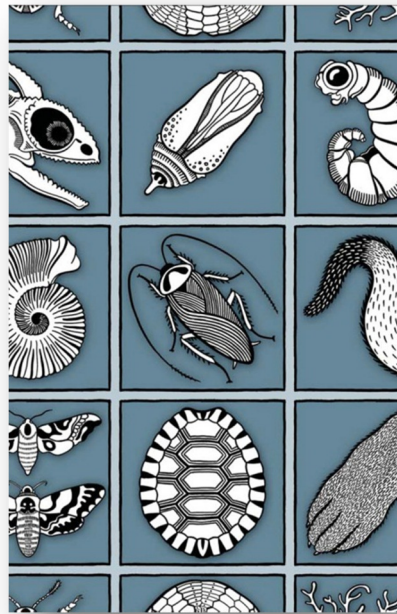
# Chômu Press

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## The Secret Life of the Panda

By Nick Jackson

*Published by Chômu Press 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2011, £9.00, Paperback Original*



*The Secret Life of the Panda* is Nick Jackson's second collection, in which he proves himself a rare contemporary master of the short form. A grieving husband takes his motherless son to a curious museum; under a microscope, the struggles of tiny organisms mirror the fall of a city; a boy who doesn't understand numbers finds eternity in the curves of a snake; where paradise is despoiled by developers, the oropendola bird weaves a basket of sunlight to carry away the dead.

This subtle but exotic collection forms a menagerie of the imagination whose creatures appear as specimens to be anatomically examined or as totems of elusive significance, guiding us into secret and colourful places where the truth is so strange it can only be suggested.

# Chômu Press

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## What People Say:

“With exquisite delicacy and a keen eye for the bizarre, Jackson creates a series of moody vignettes taking readers from religious strife in 16th-century [Germany] to a jungle camp of [Cuban] guerrillas and the mundane hallways of a contemporary British school. ... Jackson’s tales carefully probe the hidden desires and emotions of an impressive range of characters, including disturbed adolescents, struggling couples, and a variety of established or budding scientists. Illustrating his characters’ dilemmas via the natural world—birds, snakes, shells, animals—and with the challenges of gender identity and budding sexuality a recurring theme...”

**Publishers Weekly**

“Nick Jackson writes ... with alert attention to moods and settings. ... [an] impressive collection.”

Nicholas Clee, **The Guardian** (writing about *Visits to the Flea Circus*)

“... Jackson reminds me of Raymond Carver – wielding a beguiling simplicity of language that is almost impossible to achieve...”

**Gary McMahon**

*For more information or a review copy, please contact Kasia on  
pr@chomupress.com or 0208 099 1507*

## Nick Jackson:

Nick Jackson has been writing for about twenty years. He has been published in the independent press in the UK and the USA. *Visits to the Flea Circus*, his first collection, was published by Elastic Press in 2005. He has worked as a librarian in Belize, Central America, and as an adult education tutor. He currently teaches adults in psychiatric care and spends the rest of his time birdwatching and looking for snakes and other creeping things.

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**Chômu Press** is an independent UK publisher dedicated to publishing fiction that is both imaginative and unhindered by considerations of genre. They’ve been described as the publisher equivalent to art house cinema, eclectic and anarchic without sacrificing quality. Their mission is to publish books that people will read in the same way they listen to popular music—not from duty, but in the excitement of personal discovery.

Website: [www.chomupress.com](http://www.chomupress.com)