

Some praise for *There*

"As an American writing about time spent in the Middle East, Rounds' voice is mercifully free of the hubris and self-pride that infects many Western travelers. This story has been skimmed of Orientalist attitudes and biases; this is a rare protagonist whose eyes have not been clouded with self-righteous assumptions and expectations."

Claire Luchette, *Bustle*

"Rounds has passed her life onto these characters, and them onto us. Putting *There* around our eyes, our ability to see a girl in clothes she does not recognize, hankering after the small, vital facts that tell her story."

Aditi Sriram, *Guernica*

"Rounds is a major new voice in Baltimore's literary scene, and *There* is a work of both beauty and courage. What you want more of is a result of the things Rounds does so well. You close the book hoping that she has it in her to undertake another adventure, that she might find another "there" to invest with her possibility. Not enough writers work in the vein she is mining, which is not only that of Kapuscinski but also of Bruce Chatwin, Paul Theroux, Jane Bowles, and Joan Didion. (In fact, Didion's *Salvador* might be the most stylistically close antecedent, as frustrating as it is beautiful in the lack of concrete detail about the lives of the characters other than the protagonist.) Ultimately, there is a vitality in Rounds' voice that becomes more intense as the scenes she wrote keep reappearing, more vivid than when you first read them, proving there is a there *There*."

Baynard Woods, *City Paper*

"Heather Rounds manages to make entirely everyone in her novel, *There*, rootless and adrift, whether that be her American protagonist or the various homelander she meets on assignment in Kurdistan. No one—and certainly not the reader—escapes from a feeling of escape, of a gnawing tumble in space. Thing is, that feeling is so perfectly pitched, so well attuned through imagination and craft, that one feels the wheel of familiarity, a presence of home in homelessness."

Joseph Young, author of *Easter Rabbit*

"Rounds gives us her eyes and ears, jacks us up with the heightened receptivity of the traveler, and sets us down in Iraqi Kurdistan. With direct, economical prose, alive to its surroundings, she chronicles every contour of that space between wanderlust and the way a place actually turns out to be—and the way one turns out to be in it. *There* takes us all the way in, and on the way gives us a meditation on the poetics of self as a foreign body, on the accidental poetry of

translation and strangeness, on the merry-go-round of subtle breakthroughs, approaches, and evasions; in short, the being there, and the being always destined to lose it all by going home.”

Megan McShea, author of *A Mountain City of Toad Splendor*