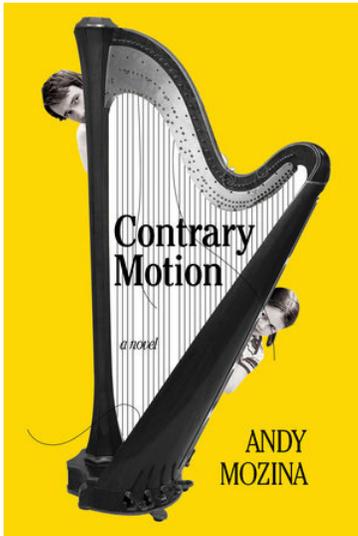


# CONTRARY MOTION by Andy Mozina (Spiegel & Grau, March 8, 2016)

“Contrary Motion is a wonderful story—beautifully written, hilarious, tortured, and filled with heavenly music.”

– **Bonnie Jo Campbell**, *Once Upon A River* and National Book Award finalist, *American Salvage*



Fiction. March 8, 2016. Hardcover. 5-1/2" x 8-1/4", 288 pages, \$26.00 ISBN 978-0-8129-9828-3

“I’M A MIDWESTERNER, born and raised in Milwaukee, where they manufacture beer and the heavy machinery you should not operate while drinking it. The youngest son of a civil engineer and a nurse, with four brothers and two sisters, I was a large but inert child in a subdivision crawling with three-sport athletes, Eagle Scouts, and kick-the-can prodigies. I grew up to be six feet one, cube-headed, block-shouldered, an average white male with no vowels in my last name, and I fell in love with the harp, of all things. I chose a musician’s life, which has proved difficult because at every moment—and for reasons I’m still trying to understand—I go about my business with a deep-seated sense that I am about to fail. This has undermined me both as a harpist and as a person, not to mention as an American.”

– **Andy Mozina**, *Contrary Motion*

**Synopsis.** Matthew Grzbc is just your average newly divorced dad. He shares custody of his six-year-old daughter. He may still be in love with his ex-wife. He believes he probably doesn’t deserve his sexy, successful, driven girlfriend. And he plays the harp—that’s his job. When his father dies unexpectedly (he has a heart attack while listening to a meditation CD), Matt is forced to confront his own mortality and the fleeting nature of life—he questions everything, from his romantic attachments to his professional aspirations. When he earns an audition for the principal harp chair in a first-rate orchestra—just the kind of life-changing development he could use right now—he is poised to seize the opportunity ... but then his ex-wife gets engaged, his girlfriend grows distant, his daughter seems to be having the six-year-old version of an emotional breakdown, he learns things about his father’s life that make him question everything he thought he knew about the man, and then ... even his harp starts to betray him. Immensely appealing, funny, bright, and true, Andy Mozina’s first novel hits all the right emotional and comic notes.

**Bio.** Andy Mozina’s first story collection *The Women Were Leaving the Men* (2007) won the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. His second collection, *Quality Snacks* (2014), was a finalist for the Flannery O’Connor Prize and other awards. Mozina’s fiction has appeared in *Tin House*, *The Southern Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *McSweeney’s: The Small Chair* and elsewhere. His work has received special citations in *Best American Short Stories*, *Pushcart Prize*, and *New Stories from the Midwest*. He is a professor of English at Kalamazoo College and lives in Kalamazoo with his wife, Lorri, and his daughter, Madeleine.



Photo: Kaitlin LaMoine

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## PRAISE FOR CONTRARY MOTION

“Standing between world-class harpist Matt Grzbc and his dream, a permanent position in a top orchestra, is just about everybody in his life. This brilliant debut novel zigzags across Chicago’s neighborhoods exploring the obsession a striving artist must have for his craft, as he also makes a living and nourishes those near him, especially his eccentric and precocious six-year-old daughter. *Contrary Motion* is a wonderful story—beautifully written, hilarious, tortured, and filled with heavenly music.”

– **Bonnie Jo Campbell**, *Once Upon a River* and National Book Award finalist, *American Salvage*

“[A] charming novel ... the pleasures of [Mozina’s] writing never flag.”

– **Kirkus Reviews**

“No portrait of an artist brings alive vulnerability, hilarity, desperation, hipness, absurdity, and painful steadfastness as splendidly as Andy Mozina’s *Contrary Motion*. A dazzling, unforgettable novel.”

– **Mark Wisniewski**, *Watch Me Go*

## PRAISE FOR ANDY MOZINA

“A new and deeply original voice.”

– **Ann Patchett**, *Bel Canto* and *State of Wonder*

“Andy Mozina is able to transport us from hilarity to pathos in a breathtaking, heartbreaking moment.”

– **Peter Ho Davies**, *The Welsh Girl* and *Equal Love*

“Andy Mozina is a magician....And he is as funny as he is wise.”

– **Jaimy Gordon**, National Book Award winner, *Lord of Misrule*

“Mozina sprinkles humor throughout his stories, which contain startling plot ideas and smart language twists, and takes narratives from a realistic beginning to an unforeseen ending.”

– **Booklist**, **Ellen Loughran**

“Andy Mozina feels like another writer *Fence* will want to claim credit for discovering, as if.”

– **Jonathan Lethem**, *The Fortress of Solitude* and *Motherless Brooklyn*

“Mozina possesses both an ironic sensibility and a real compassion for characters in their human conditions.”

– **Laura Kasischke**, *Be Mine* and *The Life Before Her Eyes*