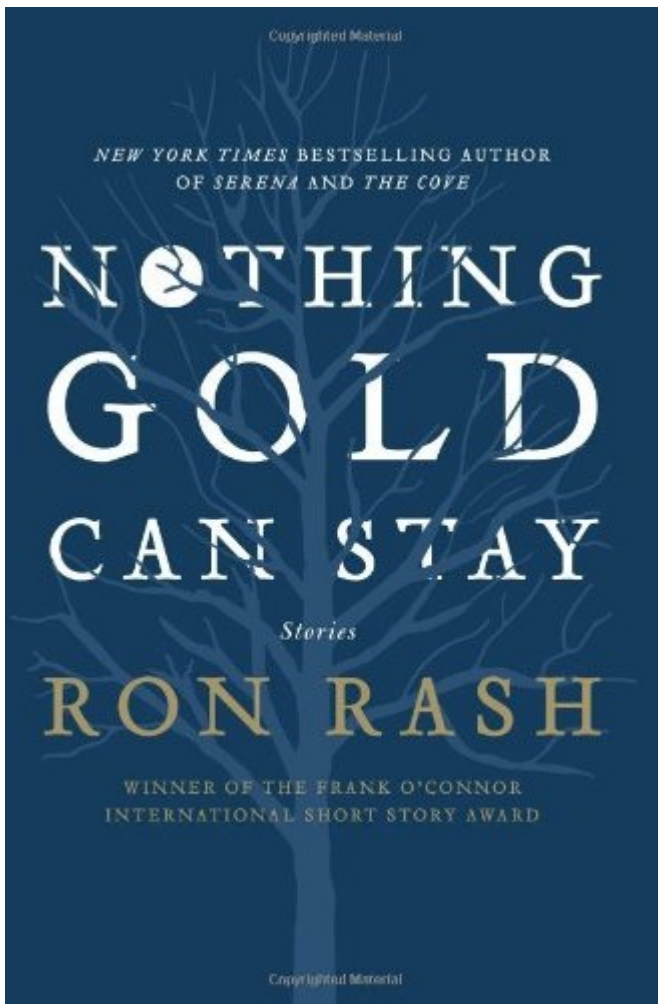


Nothing Gold Can Stay, by Ron Rash

Books in the [May 15, 2013](#) issue

In Review



Nothing Gold Can Stay

by Ron Rash

Ecco

Ron Rash writes the way a fisherman filets. Nothing is spared getting to the meat. His sharpened knife sends the extras flying off the table. What's left is naked narrative. Each of the 14 stories in this collection contains a defining moment loaded

with unexpressed pathos or fear. The spare quality comes from his concise language. The quality of pathos or fear comes with how he corners his characters. What Rash says of Flannery O'Connor's stories describes his own: "It was putting her characters in a situation where their essence would be revealed, the mask of the everyday would be taken off of their everyday existence."