

# Talk like a Man

## Nisi Shawl

Nisi Shawl's steampunk-flavored alternate history of the "Belgian" Congo, *Everfair*, has taken the science fiction and fantasy world by storm. No surprise there. Their swift, sure, and savvy short stories had already established them as a cutting-edge Afrofuturist icon whose politically charged fiction is in the grand feminist tradition of Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia Butler, and Suzy McKee Charnas.

In these previously uncollected stories, Shawl explores the unexpected possibilities and perils opened up by SF&F's new intersectionality. In Shawl's side-slippy world, sex can be both commerce and worship, complete with ancient rites, altars, and ointments ("Women of the Doll"); a virtual reality high school is a proving ground for girlpacks and their unfortunate adversaries ("Walk like a Man"); and a British rock singer finds an image in a mirror that reflects both future hits and ancient horrors ("Something More"). Also included is a presentation at a southern university, in which they patiently (and gleefully) deconstructs the academic and arcane intersections between ancient rites and modern tech. Ifa, anyone?

Plus:

Our Outspoken Interview with Shawl, in which unapologetics are proffered, riddles are unraveled, and icons are, as always, clasted.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nisi Shawl is an African American writer, editor, and journalist. They are best known for their science fiction and fantasy stories and novels dealing with race, gender, and sexual orientation. They live in Seattle, where they also write on political and cultural matters for the *Seattle Times*. Shawl is the author of the steampunk-flavored alternate history of the "Belgian" Congo, *Everfair*, as well as the Tiptree/Otherwise Award-winning story collection *Filter House*. Shawl has also edited and coedited many anthologies, including *New Suns: Original Speculative Fiction by People of Color*.

## ACCOLADES

"Shawl's keen sense of justice and her adamant anticolonialism always ride just beneath the surface of her stories. Never didactic, Shawl possesses the gift of a true storyteller: the ability to let the warp and weft of plot and character do her moral work for her."

—Brian Charles Clark in *Curled Up with a Good Book*

"A talented and distinctive voice."

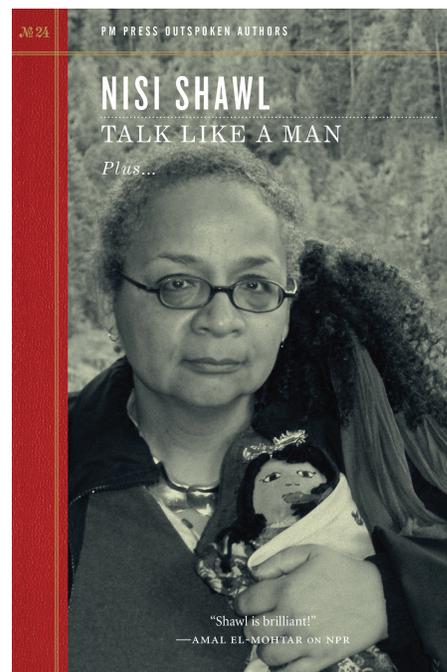
—Daniel Haeusser of *The Skiffy and Fanty Show*

"Nisi Shawl tells stories as if she has just awakened from a vivid and terrifying dream, and she's intent on relating its details."

—*Seattle Times*

"Shawl is brilliant."

—Amal el-Mohtar on NPR



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