

from
The Monitor
October 17, 2014

Another Texas native has a book coming out in the next few weeks, which has already won three awards before hitting shelves: The Deep South Writers Conference Best Novel (selected by Ernest Gaines), the Creative Writing Award of the Conference of College Teachers of English and first place in the North Texas Professional Writers Association's yearly novel contest.

Women of Thunder (published by TCU Press) is Jerry Craven's follow-up to *The Wild Part*, though the novel stands on its own. Some 20 years after their childhood trek across the Venezuelan jungles, Rosa Rojas (now a trained nurse) is reunited with Don Seal, now using his middle name, Thomas. Seeking to escape the horrors of Vietnam and a failed marriage, Tom convinces Rosa to recreate their journey. As they set off in hopes of recapturing their long-lost innocence, the couple is drawn into a magical and dangerous world that could just as soon destroy them as heal their hearts and minds.

A refreshingly adult love story told from both the man and woman's point of view, merging a shamanistic and matter-of-fact vision of the world, *Women of Thunder* is also a powerful literary adventure that explores weighty concerns of human existence.

David Bowles is an award-winning translator and author. You can contact him at www.davidbowles.us

