

Biography

Chris Tusa was born and raised in New Orleans. He holds a B.A. in English, an M.A in English, and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Florida. Aside from teaching in the English Department at LSU, he also acts as Managing Editor for [Poetry Southeast](#). With the help of a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, he was able to complete his first chapbook of poetry, *Inventing an End*. His debut collection of poems, [Haunted Bones](#), was published by Louisiana Literature Press in 2006. His work has appeared in *Connecticut Review*, *Texas Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The New Delta Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *Southeast Review*, *Passages North*, *Spoon River*, *New York Quarterly*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Tar River*, *StorySouth*, and others. He has studied under a number of notable writers, including Tim Gautreaux, Sidney Wade, and Debora Gregor. His debut novel, [Dirty Little Angels](#), was released by The University of West Alabama in March of 2009.

Tusa's stories are, in effect, Southern-fried Greek tragedies. In his work, the backwoods Southern Gothicism of Faulkner and O'Connor intersects with a more contemporary, more urban depiction of the South. Typical themes include mental illness as well as the ways in which the contemporary, celebrity-driven American culture has managed to alter the landscape of the traditional Christ-haunted South.