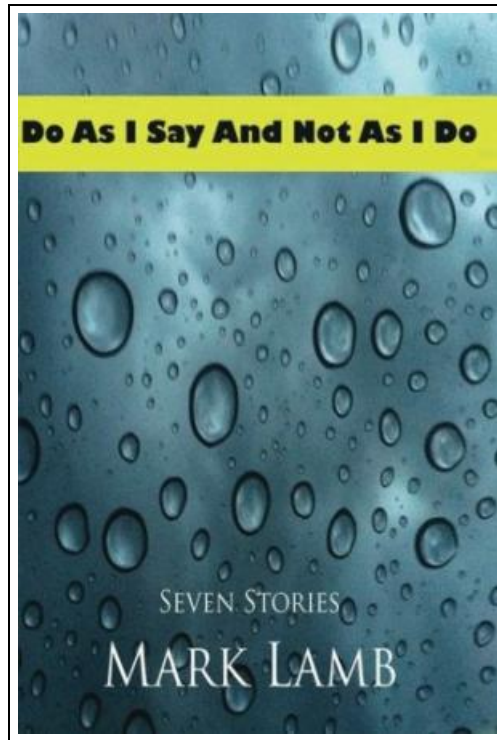


## Do as I Say and Not as I Do



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## DO AS I SAY AND NOT AS I DO



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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 239 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The seven stories in this collected volume of short fiction, *Do As I Say and Not As I Do*, reflect author Mark Lamb's experiences as a parent. The trials and tribulations of being responsible for children impacts all parents deeply, and Lamb has let his formidable imagination run with this theme. The verities of human commitment and development go to some strange, beautiful, and disturbing places in these stories. Lamb's narrative voice is distinct, simultaneously detached and vaguely sympathetic, non-judgmental, but not quite comforting. He has arrived at this, his first volume, with an identifiable style. What irony that is found here is flat, then twisted through a kaleidoscope, making it invisible or merely suggested. There is a Southern Gothic seasoning, somewhere in the tonal and topical region where Poe's less macabre vignettes and Capote's *Music for Chameleons* might intermix. But his characters are all too real: Lamb shows us the good, the bad, the ugly, and the perverse, and doesn't flinch from representing the messy, at times grotesque, shortcomings of people as they really live. The settings for the stories cover a broad range: Science fiction ( *You Must Remember This* ); the dangerous early American frontier ( *Pigeon Roost* ); unsettling psychosexual set pieces ( *Station Approach*, *Grand Guignol*, *Mr. Wiggin's Jar* ); the everyday, humdrum worlds of confused relationships and motives that most of us inhabit, however tentatively ( *The Gosling Patch*, *Mixed State* ). There is an ambience - it is not magic realism, more like rational surrealism - suffusing all of Lamb's stories, even those grounded in the empirical here-and-now. A certain spooky, ambient unity thus...



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