

Georgia Library Quarterly

Volume 46 | Issue 4

Article 23

October 2009

REVIEW: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

Kenneth M. Kozel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>



Part of the [American Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kozel, Kenneth M. (2009) "REVIEW: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 4 , Article 23.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss4/23>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

Brijin Boddy, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System, bboddy@cvrls.net

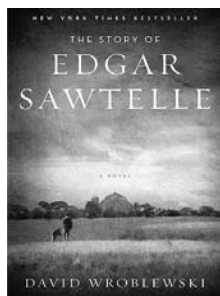
Karen Odom, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Houston County Public Libraries, kodom@houpl.org

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://gla.georgialibraries.org/gla_bookreviews.htm

FICTION

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski (Harper Collins, 2008; 9780061374227)

Wroblewski's debut into the literary world is a success. Rich in description and detail, the 566-page-turner will keep you enthralled. A beautifully written novel full of mystery, suspicion, and heart. The story, which is set on a farm in northern Wisconsin, could easily translate to any Georgia farm in any sleepy rural town. The characters are few, but well developed from beginning to end. Gar, Trudy, Edgar and Claude Sawtelle, along with Doctor and Glen Papineau and a host of other interesting actors complete the cast. The tale revolves around the protagonist – Edward Sawtelle. Born mute and the sole offspring of Gar and Trudy Sawtelle. The family has bred and raised dogs their whole life — the mysterious and infamous breed of Sawtelle Dogs. The tale is full of human emotion, heartache, turmoil and treachery. Simply the story is about the coming of age of a young man, facing our fears and life's intricate well-woven mysteries. As a librarian, I was impressed by the amount of cognizant research and study that went into the writing of this book. The chapters on dog training, the Sawtelle breed history, and the deep relationship between man and beast are rich in detail and depiction. The touching portrayal of Edgar, his best friend Almondine and faithful



compatriots (Finch, Pout, Essay, Tinder and Baboo) impressed me. Dog lovers and anyone who has ever loved and lost a pet will be able to relate to the moving narrative of Edgar Sawtelle. ►►

— Reviewed by **Kenneth M. Kozel**

Summer 2009 graduate

Valdosta State University MLIS Program

NONFICTION

The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South or, Leaving Behind the Plow by David M. Battles (Scarecrow Press, 2009; ISBN 978-0-8108-6247-0, \$40.00)

Battles provides a detailed chronological account of integration in American public libraries from the early 19th century through the mid-1960's, placed in its cultural and historical context as part of the larger struggle for Civil Rights. Battles explains why southern states maintained segregation longer than northern states, key legal cases that impacted equality for African Americans, and how the South gradually gave way to political and social forces calling for equality — including desegregation of public buildings. Personalities such as W. E. B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington are given their due, but Battles also highlights quotes or stories from

