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Fiction and Contemporary Culture





Renato After Alba A Novel by Eugene Mirabelli

RENATO AFTER ALBA

> \$24.00 cloth 192 pages, 5.5 x 8.5" 978-1-62054-026-8 Rights: World

Grief astonishes. Ten years after the conclusion of Renato Stillamare's defiant confessions in Renato, the Painter, Alba, his wife of fifty years, dies without warning, and his implacable anguish tears him to pieces. When he picks up his narrative, this larger-than-life artist has been reduced to a darkened existence of messy human confusion - broken belief, crazy hope, desperate philosophy. A man of fragments but still an artist, he assembles a collage of scenes of life with and without Alba, recollections of his eccentric Sicilian-American family, encounters with well-meaning friends, quotidian attempts at resuming his former life, and metaphysical railings against any deity capable of destroying what it has created. In Renato After Alba, the deepest sorrow is not merely lacerating, outrageous, heart-rending, and tragic, but also, for someone so introspectively human as the great Renato, comic

and touching. And miraculously beautiful in its astonishment.

"Readers will discover not only solace for being human but also joy for being alive, living on a planet of earthly delights. Alba remains an extraordinary absent presence, fully realized. A young woman who has lost her husband to brain cancer has tattooed on her arms the words, 'If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever'—words that could be the epigraph to this memorable novel."—Jeffrey Berman, author of *Writing Widowhood: The Landscapes of Bereavement*

"The affecting, bittersweet rant of an aging painter who tries, and fails, to come to terms with the death of his wife.... But the reader feels such affection for Renato—indeed, an appreciation of his mindfulness—that when he finally declares, 'It's important to have wine... So you'll know it's not breakfast,' you can forgive him anything."—*Publishers Weekly*

"For anyone who loves the work of James Salter or William Trevor, Eugene Mirabelli is another writer to treasure, and *Renato After Alba* is one of the best books I've read in ages—a beautiful, profound and exhilarating novel about what sustains us in the face of inevitable loss."

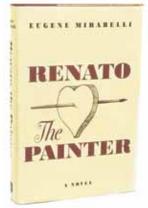
-Elizabeth Hand, author of Hard Light and Generation Loss

EUGENE MIRABELLI is the author of eight previous novels. A graduate of Harvard University and the Johns Hopkins University writing program, he grew up outside Boston, the setting for most of his novels and stories. He has received many awards over a long career, and his works have been translated into many languages, including Turkish and Hebrew. Although he lives in upstate New York, he remains at heart a New Englander.



Renato, the Painter A Novel by Eugene Mirabelli WINNER: 2013 IPPY for Literary Fiction

"Eugene Mirabelli ... offers us the intimate workings of an aging man at the height of his powers who fears that they will ebb; he and his women and



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paintings are vividly rendered: fierce, fine."

—Nicholas Delbanco, author of *Lastingness* "A lively comic romp through the early high promise of the painter Renato, and his late-life desperation over the art world's non-recognition of his work. Age bends and fate twists the artist, but he carries on with his 'perishable art and human love'—the indefatigable artist as his own work of art."

—William Kennedy, author of *Ironwood* "A lusty, hilarious romp through life..."

-Tom Lavoie, ShelfAwareness.com

"This splendidly layered comic novel dramatizes perhaps more effectively than any other fiction I have read the tribulations and joys experienced by a serious artist—in this case, an Italian-American painter...as he loves and works and battles his way through his 70th year."

-Lawrence Kinsman, Mercury Book Reviews

This Earth You'll Come Back To A Novel by Barbara Roether

FINALIST FOR 2016 OHIOANA FICTION PRIZE FINALIST FOR 2015 INDYFAB LITERARY FICTION AWARD SELECTION OF THE LATE NIGHT LIBRARY BOOK CLUB



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Rose Healy of Blanchardville, Ohio, child bootlegger, WWII veteran, devoted reader of Tolstoy, and heroic mother of ten, had the nerve to die before her youngest daughter could get home. Which, as Rose would say, was her own damn fault. Yet, when Stephanie returns after the funeral, restless and plagued by the same unease that drove her away thirty years earlier, she discovers that death is no object when two women need to talk. And Rose is talking, speaking out the secrets buried for generations in the heart of the heartland. What will a mother do to feed her children? Who will protect them when she cannot? Why did Stephanie leave and what of herself did she leave behind? Rose's wisdom and resilient spirit guide this journey through the inward and outward struggles of a working class family as they move from the rich

promise of Ohio farmland in 1850 to the rustbelt ruins of 2005. *This Earth You'll Come Back To* captures the earthy colloquial voice of the region while exposing an archetypal story that is tragic, triumphant, and utterly original.

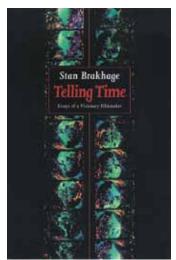
"From her afterlife a newly dead mother watches her restless wandering daughter arriving, late as usual, at the cemetery. Skeptic, forgiving, loving, the mother tells us the girl's story, about her wanderings and the whole family from which she wandered. This is an astonishing narrative feat—a self-portrait through the eyes of the Other, the Mother. Through her unforgettable debut novel, Roether sustains a luminous and compassionate embrace of how we fail, and fail each other, and life still goes richly on." —Robert Kelly

Barbara Roether is a teacher and writer in San Francisco. After earning an MFA from Bard College, she has published fiction, poetry, and non-fiction in numerous journals and magazines.

Telling Time Essays of a Visionary Filmmaker by Stan Brakhage

Throughout a career spanning half a century, Stan Brakhage the foremost experimental filmmaker in America, and perhaps the world—wrote controversial essays on the art of film and its intersections with poetry, music, dance, and painting. Published in small circu-

lation literary and arts journals, they were gathered later into such books as Metaphors on Vision and Film at Wit's End. Beginning in 1989, and for a decade thereafter, Brakhage wrote the essays in Telling Time as an occasional column for Musicworks, a Toronto quarterly. Ostensibly about the relation of film to music, they soon enlarged to explore primary concerns beyond film, including Brakhage's aesthetic theories based on the phenomenology of human cognition. In these essays he is as brilliant discussing Gertrude Stein or romantic love as he is on child psychology, astronomy, and physiology, all the while teasing out vital correspondences between the arts, and upending conventional ideas of how we perceive. Above all, he shares his theories and discoveries in the spirit of establishing a groundwork for many varieties of human liberation. His prose is filled with flashes of insight, elaborated metaphors, playful elisions, shorthand puns and neologisms,

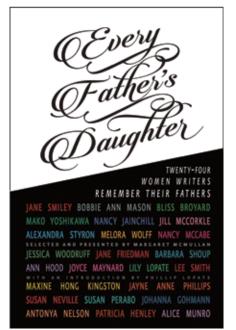


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personal digressions, surprising epiphanies, leaps of faith, and affronts to authority. He appeals to the imagination, and invites us to a more profound and personal experience of art.

"The twenty-six pieces collected [here] establish Brakhage's place among the most elastic minds of his generation. ...*Telling Time* is an elegant, thoroughly engaging, timely and wide-ranging work... [it] is an essential book for anyone interested in Brakhage, theories of visual perception, the relationship of film to music, and the beats in-between."—Brett Kashmere, *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*

Every Father's Daughter Twenty-four Women Writers Remember Their Fathers Selected and Presented by Margaret McMullan With an Introduction by Phillip Lopate



\$29.95 hardcover 302 pages, 5.75 x 8.75" 49 photographs 978-1-62054-013-8 _{Rights: World} "What is it about the relationship between fathers and daughters that provokes so much exquisite tenderness, satisfying communion, longing for more, idealization from both ends, followed often if not inevitably by disappointment, hurt, and the need to understand and forgive, or to finger the guilt of not understanding and loving enough?" asks Phillip Lopate in his introduction to Every Father's Daughter, a collection of personal essays by distinguished women writers exploring exactly this question. About half of these essays were written by invitation; others were selected by Ms. McMullan, herself a novelist of note, and her associate, Mr. Lopate. The contributors include many wellknown writers, as well as accomplished writers less well-known but no less cogent, inventive, perceptive, lacerating, questioning, or loving of their fathers:

Alice Munro, Jayne Anne Phillips, Alexandra Styron, Ann Hood, Bobbie Ann Mason, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jane Smiley, Bliss Broyard, Joyce Maynard, Jill McCorkle, Lee Smith, Melora Wolff, Nancy McCabe, Jessica Woodruff, Jane Friedman, Barbara Shoup, Lily Lopate, Susan Neville, Susan Perabo, Johanna Gohmann, Antonya Nelso, and Patricia Henley

Divine Punishment A Novel by Sergio Ramirez

Translated by Nick Caistor with Hebe Powell

n this, the greatest work of a storied literary career—now in English translation-Sergio Ramírez transforms the most celebrated criminal trial in Nicaraguan history-the alleged murders by a Casanova named Oliverio Castañeda of two high society women and his employer in 1933-into an examination of the entire Nicaraguan society at the brink of the first Somosa dictatorship. Passion, money, sex, gossip, political intrigue, medical malpractice and judicial corruption all merge into a novel that reads like a courtroom drama wrapped in yellow journalism disguised as historical fiction fronting a political scandal of the first order.

"This is a big, beautiful novel—a compelling historical drama of competing narratives and colorful characters that is selfaware and tinged with black humor."

-Publishers Weekly

PUNISHMENT

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"*Divine Punishment* is by far the best novel by Sergio Ramírez . . . and one of my favorite novels, period. Set in the Nicaraguan city of León in the 1930s, and based on a true story, it concerns the case of Oliverio Castañeda, a young charmer and social climber accused of killing neighbors, patrons, and lovers by poisoning. The convoluted affair (still used as a case study in Central American law schools) was never solved, and Ramírez himself cagily leaves it openended. Hilarious, riveting, beautifully constructed and written."—DAN BELLM

"... the main character is language, as well as the entire society of the city of León. ... [*Divine Punishment*] is a poetic novel, as well as being dramatic and pathetic, and tragic, humorous, macabre, romantic, realistic, and political ..."

-ERNESTO CARDENAL

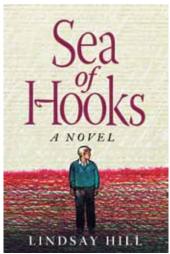
Sea of Hooks

A Novel by Lindsay Hill WINNER: 2016 Dactyl Literary Fiction Award WINNER: 2015 IPPY for Literary Fiction WINNER: 2014 PEN USA Fiction Award FINALIST: 2014 OREGON BOOK AWARD FINALIST: 2014 CHAUTAUQUA PRIZE Publishers Weekly Top 5 Fiction Title

New York Magazine Top 10 Book

THE OREGONIAN

"A terrifyingly beautiful novel . . . I can't think of the last time a book wrapped itself around me with such instant intensity, pulling me into another space, another life, one so steeped in pain from the first paragraph—yet I couldn't put it down. . . . Christopher, the protagonist, is as unique in his way and as



\$25 hardcover 352 pages, 5.75 x 8.75" 978-1-62054-006-0 Cover by Paul Bacon Rights: World X Italy & Brazil endearing as the autistic protagonist of the same name in Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

★ "But it is Hill's language that dominates this story, which is told in fractured bits, not unlike the messengers. Christopher's meditations on death, memory, the relations of bones to the self, not to mention rain and snow and fog and the cosmos, are mystical, highly poetic and musically rendered—an almost impossibly sustained performance from beginning to end. Nearly every paragraph astonishes, every moment rich with magic and daring. Reminiscent of Robert Pirsig and Herman Hesse in its concern with authenticity, *Sea of Hooks* also has the unbearable anguish of Kafka's diaries—making for an unforgettable trip."

ROSEMARY AND READING GLASSES

"Brilliant.... A novel so audacious, so intricately constructed, that it was a reading experience

unlike any I've ever had..... It's a novel that proves that the complexities of one young man's daily life, his preoccupations and his nightmares, and above all, his compassion, can be extraordinarily fascinating, suspenseful, and revelatory."

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The Complete Stories by Mary Butts Preface by John Ashbery



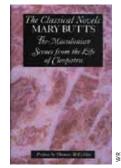


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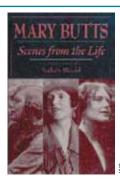
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Coming in Spring 2017: The Collected Essays and Reviews

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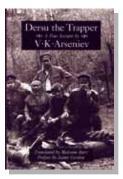
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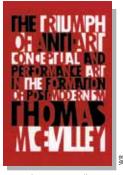


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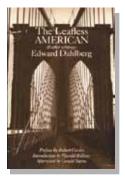
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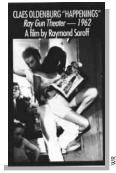
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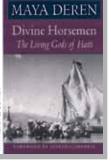
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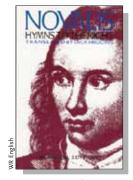


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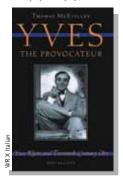
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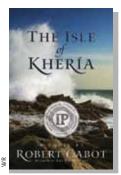
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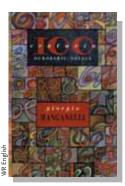




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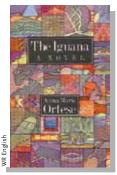
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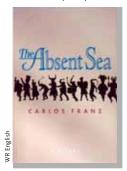
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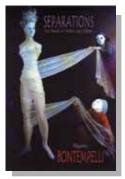
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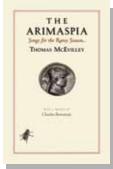
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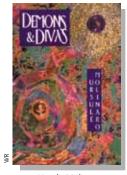
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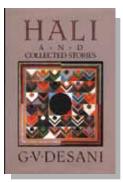


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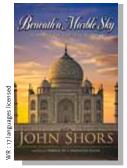
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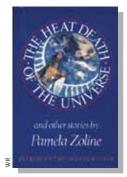
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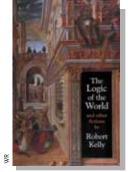
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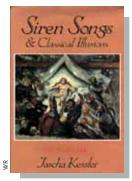
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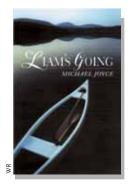
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