

A Literary Magazine for the Maternally Inclined
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LITERARY
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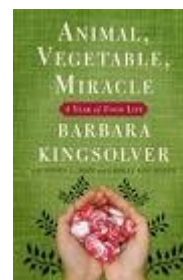
Now Reading: May 2008

We asked our editors and columnists to look in their book bags and on their night stands to tell us what they're currently reading. We hope our readers find titles to add to their own "Now Reading" lists. And then spread the joy! Bring the list to your favorite mama-friendly bookstore!

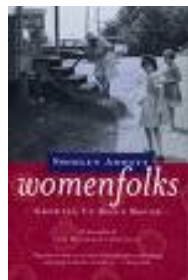


Suzanne Kamata recently finished reading Margot Singer's collection of linked short stories, *The Pale of Settlement*. She writes, "Not knowing much about modern Israel beyond the headlines, I was deeply interested in these well-wrought tales centering around a woman caught between cultures. This book won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction last year."

Christina Speed, E-Zine Co-Editor, writes, "Searching for inspiration to get to the farmer's market or plant a Victory Garden? A taste of Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* will give you a revealing look at the rewards of spending a year living off the land. I cannot help but see the produce section at my supermarket in a whole new light."



Fiction Co-Editor Kristina Riggle is reading *A Free Life* by Ha Jin. She describes it as "a graceful and poignant story of a family of Chinese immigrants to America negotiating their new home in the years after Tiananmen Square."



Sarah Kilts, Literary Reflections Editorial Assistant, just finished reading *Womenfolks: Growing Up Down South*, by Shirley Abbott. Sarah writes, "The book begins with a beautiful thesis: "We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies." Throughout the book, Abbott combines lyrical memoir and well-researched historical narrative as she explores the connections she shares with her Scotch-Irish ancestors who emigrated to, and flourished in, the backwoods of Arkansas. The result, I must admit, is that many of the myths about the south and southerners, which my own New England Yankee upbringing had instilled so deeply in me, have been forever, and delightfully, debunked."

Columns Co-editor C. Delia Scarpitti writes, "I am completely engrossed in the former Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Bright Forever* by Lee Martin. This is a novel of the darkness of the human condition cut across the brilliance of small town life. The structure, shifts in point-of-view and luminous characterization make it a must-read for any writer. The harrowing story of what can happen to a beautiful nine-year-old girl even in the arms of her "safe" community makes it one no reader will quickly forget."

