



Advance Praise for **The Girl Who Fell From the Sky**

by Heidi W. Durrow

"Out of the clear blue, here is a breathless telling of a tale we've never heard before. Haunting and lovely, pitch-perfect, this book could not be more timely."

Barbara Kingsolver

"A remarkable novel. It unfolds its secrets with the perfect placement of a mystery--I had trouble putting it down--while its core story about a mother's desperate act recalls the insights of a writer no less than Toni Morrison. Durrow writes fearlessly about race, memory, and family--she is a writer to watch."

Joan Silber, author of *Ideas of Heaven: A Ring of Stories* (National Book Award Finalist)

"Heidi Durrow's first novel stunned me, and partially broke my heart. The deeply-divided world of her child narrator reflects that struggle between universes - race, family, art and love - that so many 'light-skinned-ed girls' face, and Rachel faces her worlds with sorrow, believable fear and finally, imagination and resolve. But what kept me reading were the vivid voices of all the people around her - Ms. Durrow has created a resonant world all her own."

Susan Straight, author of *A Million Nightingales*



"In reading Heidi Durrow's captivating and moving novel, it is hard not to recall the writer Nella Larsen's own work, touching on some of the same complexities of race and gender. But it would be a mistake to think of *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* as an 'issue' novel when it engages the heart as much as it does the mind. Rachel Morse, the young girl who comes of age in the course of the novel, is the kind of girl that everyone relates to, yet she remains essentially unknown. Her physical beauty is as much invitation as it is a barrier. All of which makes Durrow's novel unforgettable."

Whitney Otto, *New York Times* best-selling author of *How to Make an American Quilt*

"This is one of those rare novels that reflects urban life in multicultural America, the way we live now, so cleanly and freshly, that it seems easy to forget this is a book at all. Heidi Durrow is a wonderfully gifted writer who can summon a

voice, a memorable character with bold, swift strokes. *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* is a gem, and it shimmers in a way that good readers will notice and appreciate."

Jay Parini, author of *Promised Land*

"What can I say about a novel that kept me up reading until four in the morning? As exquisitely written as a poem, Durrow's novel about a biracial girl's struggle to reclaim what happened one shocking day on a city rooftop, lifts the veil on these stories we tell to save ourselves and those we love. An achingly powerful exploration of family, love and race, from a brilliantly talented author."

Caroline Leavitt, author of *Girls in Trouble*

"Artfully constructed and beautifully written, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* is at once a meditation on race and those who bridge its arbitrary distinctions, and a mystery that involves and holds the reader to the very last page. Durrow writes with smarts and sensitivity about those who claim more than one identity, and who point us toward a future in which all of us, of any race, will claim to be American. "

Hettie Jones, author of *How I Became Hettie Jones*

"In Heidi Durrow's story-telling, one hears echoes of the early Toni Morrison, resonances with Langston Hughes's fiction about coming-of-age and dawning racial consciousness, and an inner voice never heard before, conversing with Nella Larsen about how things have been since she left. A stunning debut for a talented novelist, *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* will be read and re-read as one of the most convincing, original, and moving novels in the distinguished canon of American interracial literature."

George Hutchinson, author of *In Search of Nella Larsen: A Biography of the Color Line*

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky (Algonquin Books) February 2010

ISBN 1-56512-680-7

Contact Information: heididurrow@hotmail.com

For more information visit: www.heididurrow.com.

#