

# First Fiction for Fall

## How to Be an American Housewife

Margaret Dilloway

Entreated to visit her ancestral family in Japan in place of her ailing mother, Sue uncovers family secrets that influence her life in unforeseen ways, offer insight into her mother's marriage to an American GI and reveal the role of tradition in shaping personal choice.

## Up from the Blue

Susan Henderson

An imaginative young girl struggles to make sense of her mother's mysterious disappearance—set in 1975 against the backdrop of school busing, desegregation, and early feminism.

## Russian Winter

Daphne Kalotay

Former Bolshoi ballerina Nina Revskaya auctions off her jewelry collection and becomes overwhelmed by memories of her homeland, the friends she left behind amidst Stalinist aggression, and the dark secret that brought her to a new life in Boston. Kalotay is the author of the short story collection *Calamity and Other Stories*.

## The Wake of Forgiveness

Bruce Machart

On a moonless Texas night in 1895, an ambitious young landowner suffers the loss of "the only woman he's ever been fond of" when his wife dies during childbirth with the couple's fourth boy, Karel. From an early age Karel proves so talented on horseback that his father enlists him to ride in acreage-staked horse races against his neighbors. But Karel is forever haunted by thoughts of the mother he never knew, by the bloodshot blame in his father's eyes, and permanently marked by the yoke he and his brothers are forced to wear to plow the family fields.

## Gendarme

Mark T. Mustian

Emmett Conn is an old man, near the end of his life. A World War I veteran, he's been affected by memory loss since being injured during the war. To those around him, he's simply a confused man, fading in and out of senility. But what they don't know is that Emmett has been beset by memories, of events he and others have denied or purposely forgotten.

## The Lost & Forgotten Languages of Shanghai

Ruiyan Xu

Injured by a gas explosion that renders him incapable of speaking Chinese, Shanghai businessman Li Jing struggles to communicate using faltering English phrases learned during his childhood years in Virginia and finds his marriage strained by a growing bond with an American neurologist.

