

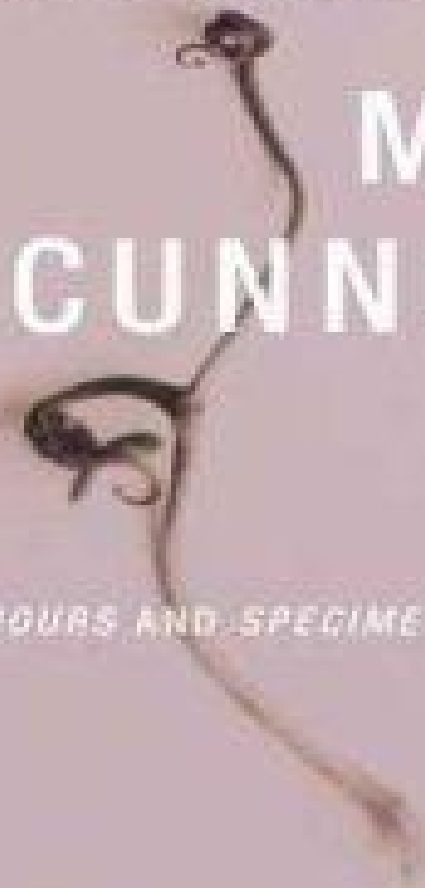


A NOVEL

FLESH AND BLOOD

MICHAEL
CUNNINGHAM

AUTHOR OF *THE HOURS* AND *SPECIMEN DAYS*



PICADOR



Michael Cunningham is the author of the bestselling novel *The Hours*, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award and was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film; *A Home at the End of the World*, also adapted for the screen; and *Specimen Days*. Most recently, he edited *Laws for Creations*, a collection of poetry and prose by Walt Whitman. He lives in New York.

ALSO BY

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

A Home at the End of the World

The Hours

Specimen Days

Laws for Creations (ed.)

Additional Praise for *Flesh and Blood*

“*Flesh and Blood* is the real thing—a novel about an American family surviving an American half-century that manages to be terrifically engaging and delicately written and heartfelt at the same time.”

—Bruce Barcott, *Seattle Weekly*

“Stunning . . . In precise and beautiful prose, he explores the desire for connection and the knowledge that most of the time we remain adrift.”

—*US* magazine

“Reading Michael Cunningham is like putting on see-through glasses. He’s got this way of exposing his characters’ deepest inclinations and motivations, letting us peer through glass directly into their souls.”

—Matthew Gilbert, *The Boston Globe*

“Masterful. . . Crosses emotional and sexual boundaries with rare humanity and art.”

—*Mirabella*

“Call *Flesh and Blood* a soap opera for people who value intelligent and subtle writing. . . . The telling has such grace and style that even the most predictable event catches one off guard. This is a superior novel.”

—Ronald Reed, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

“Without ever glossing over the often irreparable harm people do to those they love, this thoughtful novel reminds us that in the end, the love is more important than the harm.”

—Wendy Smith, *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland)

“Voluptuous . . . this elegiac meditation on anger, mistrust, and loneliness has a ferocious perceptiveness that puts Cunningham on another level as an artist.”

—Dwight Garner, *Harpers Bazaar*

“*Flesh and Blood* is nothing short of literary genius.”

—Owen Keehnen, *Men’s Style*

“The story of Constantine Stassos freshly examines the American immigrant experience and conflict between generations. . . . Thoroughly realized action, vivid character delineation, and the splendid control of language guarantee both the unity and powerful impact of this successful novel.”

—*Library Journal*

FLESH

AND

BLOOD

FLESH

AND

BLOOD

MICHAEL

CUNNINGHAM

Picador

Farrar, Straus and Giroux / New York

FLESH AND BLOOD. Copyright © 1995 by Michael Cunningham. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. For information, address Picador, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

www.picadorusa.com

Picador® is a U.S. registered trademark and is used by Farrar, Straus and Giroux under license from Pan Books Limited.

For information on Picador Reading Group Guides, as well as ordering, please contact Picador.

Phone: 646-307-5629

Fax: 212-253-9627

E-mail: readinggroupguides@picadorusa.com

"It's Not Unusual"; words and music by Gordon Mills and Les Reed © Copyright 1965 Leeds Music, Ltd. All rights for USA and Canada controlled and administered by Duchess Music Corporation, an MCA Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. International copyright secured.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cunningham, Michael, 1952-

Flesh and blood / Michael Cunningham.

p. cm.

ISBN-13: 978-0-312-42668-2

ISBN-10: 0-312-42668-2

I. Title.

- PS3553.U484 F57 1995

813'.54—dc20

94024628

First published in the United States by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

THIS BOOK IS FOR

DONNA LEE &

CRISTINA THORSON

CONTENTS

[Acknowledgments](#)

[I Car Ballet](#)

[II Criminal Wisdom](#)

[III Inside The Music](#)