



T O M C A T
I N L O V E

T I M O ' B R I E N

PRAISE FOR
AFTER LONG SILENCE

“An extraordinary tale ... eloquently written ... Its complex narrative weaves back and forth between past and present, the tale and its discovery.”

—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“A spellbinding book, heartbreakingly mysterious as all true family explorations must be ... Her voice is as pure as song.”

—Patricia Hampl, author of *A Romantic Education*

“A story of safe but costly passage from one identity to another that takes us from Europe to America via World War II ... [Fremont] has the intelligence and imagination to question her own motives. This allows her to question the memoir form even as she deploys it so beautifully.”

—*The New York Times*

“Moving ... compelling ... [an] affecting memoir.”

—*Boston Herald*

“Few writers have imagined the lives of their parents as fully and richly as Helen Fremont has done in *After Long Silence*. Her memoir is a harrowing journey and a brave attempt to insure that her family’s heroic suffering has not been in vain.”

—Richard Russo, author of *Straight Man* and *Nobody’s Fool*

“Reading this beautifully written memoir, I was amazed all over again by the suffering of the Holocaust and the remarkable power of humans to survive almost anything, except safety. *After Long Silence*

is a stunning testimony to the power of silence and memory.”
—Margot Livesey, author of *Criminals*

“A triumphant work of art ... [a] harrowing account ... an incredible tale of survival, a beautiful love story and a suspenseful account of how the author’s investigation of her roots shattered fiercely guarded family secrets.”
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“A stellar example of the new literary nonfiction. A page-turning, suspenseful narrative, a canny, wise-cracking narrator, and a subject as pertinent as today’s newspaper headlines.”
—Helen Epstein, author of *Children of the Holocaust*

“Fremont does a good job of digging for details and imagining dialogue ... she lets the startling details of family history simply fall into place. The account is moving without elaboration. Fremont found her door and opened it for all to see.”
—*The Seattle Times*

“Helen Fremont writes with seamless authenticity and lyric tenderness about her family’s piebald secrets.... A book that offers wise decisions and tender solace in re-weaving family bonds after silent chaos.”
—Maria Flook, author of *My Sister Life*

Praise for *Tomcat in Love*

“A great American Novel.”

—*Atlanta Journal and Constitution*

“*Tomcat in Love* is a wonderful novel, laugh-out-loud funny, one of the best books I’ve come across in years. My advice, something I’ve offered only once or twice in twelve years of writing about books ... is that you waste no more time on this review. Put down the paper. Go out and find a copy of *Tomcat in Love*. Now. It really is that good.... The book that chronicles [Thomas H. Chippering’s] journey to a kind of wisdom is a marvel—Jane Austen after too much Starbucks, Philip Roth with real compassion for his characters. It’s a wickedly accurate portrait of obsessive love that manages to be both fiercely comic and profoundly moving. Read it and weep. And laugh.”

—*Washington Post*

“A riotous good time. O’Brien tells one entertaining tale.”

—*People* magazine

“It’s a plain fact; don’t argue. Tim O’Brien can flat-out write.... [*Tomcat in Love* is] quirky and immensely satisfying.... After all the years of deadly serious writing, O’Brien has swung from the opposite side of the plate with *Tomcat*. He’s hit a home run.”

—*Denver Post*

“Like all comic novels, *Tomcat* is a complex affair that invites a complex response and offers a complex reward. Whatever O’Brien’s motives in changing his style and direction, I, for one, hope he keeps it up.”

—*New York Times Book Review*

“O’Brien brilliantly balances dark impulses and innocent affections.... *Tomcat in Love* begins at a high pitch and maintains it.... Tim O’Brien is an astonishing writer.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Picaresque in the lusty tradition of Tom Jones, *Tomcat in Love* is certainly a novel for our times. Mostly hilarious, sometimes thoughtful and wise, Tim O’Brien’s latest book once again breaks the mold.... If you have a sense of humor and are willing to laugh—as well as feel sad—about the state of male-female relationships in America at the millennium, read this book. I laughed loudly and often.

—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

“O’Brien, best known for his critically acclaimed, if grim, stories of Vietnam, now takes us by surprise as a deft social satirist. Who knew the guy was possessed of a dark, Monty Python sense of humor.”

—*St. Petersburg Times*

“*Tomcat in Love* is a powerful and brilliant book. By turns outrageously funny and deadly serious, it is always breathtakingly entertaining. It should be on everyone’s shortlist.”

—*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

“For a guy pegged as *the* Vietnam novelist of his generation, National Book Award winner Tim O’Brien has executed a rip-roaring departure with his new book, *Tomcat in Love*....O’Brien creates an unforgettable comic portrait that reaches profound heights of obnoxiousness before settling into a warm, resigned sympathy by the end of this hilarious, endearing book.”

—*Colorado Springs Independent*

“A rollicking wild ride of supremely bad manners. *Tomcat in Love* is a crazed, crazy book, exhilarating and compulsively ludicrous, merrily misogynistic and perversely patriarchally patronizing, riding on its own sheer linguistic skills and exuberance... O’Brien manages to keep his novel teetering on the edge with his superb use of language and his compulsion to view words as omens and lethal weapons.”

—*Providence Journal Bulletin*

“*Tomcat in Love* reads like Richard Ford meets Carl Hiaasen.”

—*New York* magazine

“Tim O’Brien knows cold the spiraling insularity of obsession... Nobody but O’Brien could have written some of the opening vortexes about passion and meaning... [Thomas H. Chippering] is wickedly realized. The agility and intelligence that created this pathos-ridden romantic make one marvel at Tim O’Brien’s gifts.”

—*Boston Sunday Globe*

“You will laugh out loud, cringe with empathy, and close the book smiling, your head swirling with O’Brien’s witty use of language ... a hilarious romp.”

—*Salt Lake City Tribune*

“O’Brien has gone out on a limb and readers will be hard-pressed not to scurry along after him... Perhaps the biggest gamble O’Brien takes is to build such a hyperbolic story and set of characters and make them all as believable as his supremely gritty and realistic writing about Vietnam. Only a master realist could pull it off, and O’Brien is that... Thomas [Chippering] not only becomes a tragic figure who elicits our pity, but one with universal implications.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Well-written and almost always amusing, *Tomcat in Love* is an entertaining book from a terrific writer.”

—(Toronto) *Globe and Mail*

“[Tim O’Brien] leaves the war behind for lust, laughs, and literary mastery.”

—*New York Post*

“The real question is how does Tim O’Brien make us empathize with his anti-hero? Try laugh-out-loud humor. Try playing with language with the skill of a consummate juggler. The result is a contemporary satire on human nature.”

—*Book Report*

“Chippering has an appreciation for what he calls ‘the looping circuitry of a well-told tale,’ and he takes us on a humorous journey. But it is not just a farcical romp, because his wanderings capture some of the tougher and more conflicted realities of the male heart.... Like good old Chippering, we are both tomcats and house cats, and we never know, from day to day, which one of these variations we will be.”

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

“*Tomcat in Love* claws its way into the reader’s affection.”

—*Syracuse Herald American*

“O’Brien, widely regarded for his more serious Vietnam fiction, takes a wry left turn with this book without losing an ounce of mastery over plot. This stray cat struts.”

—*Maxim*

“Enjoyable, moving, hilarious.... One of O’Brien’s many gifts as a writer—along with his fantastic ear for dialogue, his indelibly rendered characters, and his lyricism—is the way he makes his stories work. While O’Brien shows us Chippering grappling with what he wants to say, he also shows us the act and importance of story-making as well.... It is this allowance for complexity—even a

celebration of it—that finally makes *Tomcat in Love* a remarkable and compelling novel.”

—*Seattle Times*

“Part romance, part academic farce complete with footnotes, *Tomcat in Love* is a dark and thoroughly engaging comedy about the danger of obsession and the healing power of love.”

—*Kansas City Star*

“Bittersweet (with the emphasis on ‘bitter’) and hilarious.”

—*Harper’s Bazaar*

“O’Brien is funny ... a subtle and original stylist. But his story is simple: love is hard to find, hardest of all when you desperately need to find it.”

—*Booklist*

“Tom’s wit and buoyancy in the face of continual disaster (admittedly, of his own making) carry him and the novel to conclusion ... hilarious.”

—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Not since Ignatius J. Reilly in John Kennedy Toole’s *A Confederacy of Dunces* has there been a character who is at once so repulsive and so engaging. Partly a dashing Don Juan, partly a gallant Don Quixote, and partly a WASPy Woody Allen in deep denial, Tom Chippering bumbles through one comic turn after another.... It’s a testament to O’Brien’s skill that he hooks you so deeply, you can’t stop reading.”

—*Sacramento Bee*

“Wildly funny, achingly poignant.... This time, instead of haunted soldiers or a politician with a secret past, O’Brien brilliantly explores the battle of the sexes—with all its fleeting victories, bone-crushing defeats, and endless skirmishing.... O’Brien has done a masterful job

of depicting all those loose ends, those unmailed valentines, that final abiding question we have all, at one point or another, asked of the loved one who has left us behind.... *Tomcat* is also painfully human. And it is that humanness—that willingness to stoop to ridiculous levels in the name of love, that bewilderment in the face of betrayal—that finally makes him so appealing.”

—*San Diego Union Tribune*

“[Chippering] is a delightfully unreliable narrator ... a Don Juan for a modern equivocal age. Thanks to O’Brien’s craft and wit and storytelling bravado, Chippering is an astonishing comic creation.”

—*Time Out New York*

“If you approach Tim O’Brien’s *Tomcat in Love* with an open mind, with no preconceived notions, you’re likely to rave about this book.”

—*San Francisco Examiner*

‘Funny and touching.... *Tomcat* may be strange but he proves to be one of O’Brien’s more appealing characters.... Splendid fiction.’

—*Newark Star Ledger*

“You’d think O’Brien would be the last guy to attempt a comic novel, let alone get away with it. But *Tomcat in Love* is improbably successful ... his skills translate well to the comic form.... It’s impossible not to be impressed with O’ Brien’s gifts.”

—*Austin American-Statesman*

“*Tomcat in Love* is a funny book when it intends to be, but ultimately it’s not a comic book in the Philip Roth vein. It’s something new and wholly original. O’Brien shows us the quaking rage of jealousy, the deep eroticism of new love, and the ultimate despair of a failed relationship. *Tomcat in Love* is an unusual and unforgettable novel. No fooling.”

—*Orlando Sentinel Tribune*

“A risky, disturbing novel by one of our most significant post-Vietnam writers ... this is a work of great pain and great fragility.... *Tomcat in Love* continues O’Brien’s movement away from traditional combat fiction and into the theme of warriors stranded in our midst. It is his edgiest, most flamboyant performance yet.... Chippering is not pleasant company and is not meant to be. As a result, O’Brien’s novel is bracing, frightening, excessive, annoying, insulting. It is also brilliant.”

—*Portland Oregonian*

“The long and horrific war in Vietnam has inspired much of Tim O’Brien’s greatest writing.... In his new novel, *Tomcat in Love*, the critically acclaimed storyteller turns to a conflict that’s been simmering even longer than the war in Vietnam: the battle between the sexes.... O’Brien makes a stylistic hairpin turn and crashes right into your funny bone in this laugh-a-minute look at a bewildered man’s tragicomic search for love in all the wrong places.”

—*Hartford Courant*