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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *Thieves in the Family* by Maria Lisella



May 30, 2014 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Thieves in the Family* by Maria Lisella. *Thieves in the Family* appear by day and night in gardens, dreams, encounters with the dead whose spirits transcend the web and weft of time. These poetic vignettes are captured with a cinematographer's eye, laced with a love of dialogue, and an endless fascination with stories heard on subways, planes, in kitchens, and in foreign countries. Corridors of arrivals and departures bring together a seemingly disparate cast of colorful and rich characters who have more in common than one would think—a collection of postcards from working-class Queens to the Global Village.

“As a child of immigration, Maria Lisella’s voice will steal your heart with its transatlantic romance from the past to the present. Historical wounds are healed by poetry because Lisella portrays even the smallest acts of victory with clarity and honesty at perfect pitch. This book is a testament to what a poet loves; making love bigger than it was before. To her credit, Lisella can create an entire dramatic scene within one small poem, changing our view forever of what America is and what poetry can be.” —Grace Cavalieri

“Maria Lisella explores the life an Italian American woman in powerful poems rooted in love and connection and grief. She writes poignantly of all the relationships that make our lives worthwhile and records the past and present with equal vigor and intensity. This is a poet to be watched. I guarantee her poems will move you to tears and laughter.” —Maria Mazziotti Gillan

“In these pages Maria Lisella has made a beautiful, moving book of poems that takes us from ‘the old country’ that our parents and grandparents came from and the persistent role that it (and they) play in our lives, haunting, exasperating, and delighting us whether we eventually return there ourselves or are content to witness the new arrivals to our shores bringing their own histories. I’m glad she’s here to tell us her stories with such wit, wisdom, grace of language, and passion.

—Bill Zavatsky

Maria Lisella’s work appears in *Amore on Hope Street* (Finishing Line Press) and *Two Naked Feet* (Poets Wear Prada). Her poetry has appeared in many literary journals in print and online including *Fox Chase Review*, *Liqueur 44* (France), *New Verse News*, *The New York Quarterly*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, and *Skidrow Penthouse*.

She is the co-curator for the Italian American Writers Association readings at Cornelia St. Café and Sidewalk Café. She lives in Long Island City with her husband Gil Fagiani, a poet, translator and writer.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



photo by Nancy Ruhling