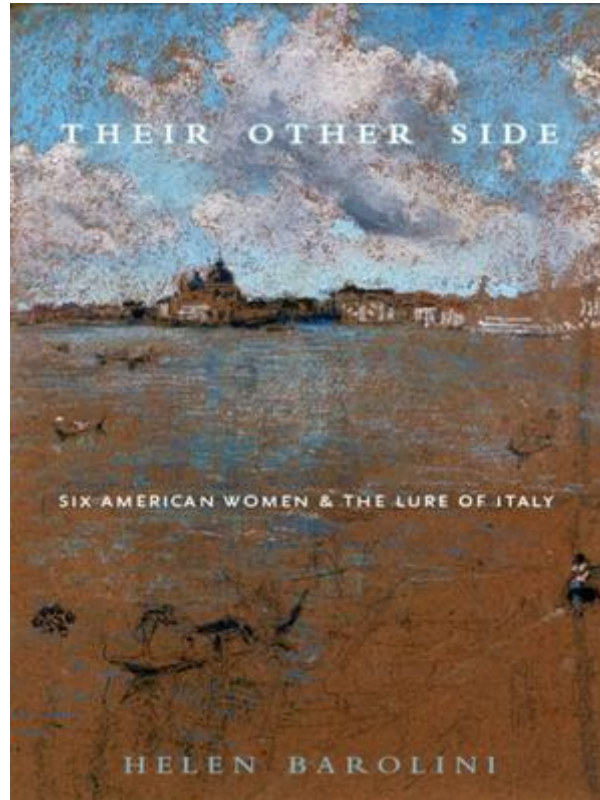


Their Other Side: Six American Women And The Lure Of Italy - Helen Barolini



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"Our lives are Swiss," Emily Dickinson wrote in 1859, "So still--so cool." But over the Alps, "Italy stands the other side." For Dickinson, as for many other writers and artists, Italy has been the land of light, a seductive source of invention, enchantment, and freedom. So it was for Helen Barolini, who, as a student in Rome after World War II, wrote her first poetry and gave birth to her own creative life, reinvigorating her mother tongue. In this book, Barolini celebrates the lives of other women whose imaginations succumbed to the lure of Italy. Here Barolini profiles six gifted women transformed by Italy's mythic appeal. Unlike Barolini herself, they were not daughters of the great Italian diaspora. Rather, they were drawn to an idea of "Italy" and its gifts--in whose welcome a new self could be created. Or discovered. Emily Dickinson traveled to Italy only in the imaginative genius of her verse. Margaret Fuller struggled alongside her Italian lover in the political revolutions that gave birth to the Italian Republic, while the novelist and short-story writer Constance Fennimore Woolson found her home in Venice and Florence. Here, too, is the flamboyant artist Mabel Dodge Luhan, entertaining at her villa near Florence; and Marguerite Chapin of

Connecticut, who married an Italian prince and in Rome founded the premier literary review of the mid-century, Botteghe Oscure. Finally, here is Iris Cutting Origo, the Anglo-American heiress who, with her Italian nobleman husband, built a Tuscan estate, where she wrote acclaimed biographies--and created a refuge from Mussolini's fascism. Linking these lives, Barolini shows, is the transforming catalyst of change in a new land. Their Other Side is a wise, warm, and deeply felt literary journey that brilliantly captures the enduring effects of Italy as a place, a culture, and an experience. Praise for Helen Barolini "An impassioned and magnificent contribution to our knowledge of what it has meant and means still to be an ethnic American and woman. . . . a book of heroic recovery and affirmation."--Alice Walker (on The Dream Book) "Large in scope, in depth, and in the gift of narrative."--Cynthia Ozick (on Umbertina) Author: Barolini, Helen Publisher: Fordham University Press Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Their Other Side: Six American Women and the Lure of Italy Pages: 00702 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 2006-10-15 SKU-13/ISBN: 9780823226290 Category: Literary Collections : Essays Category: Biography & Autobiography : Literary Category: Biography & Autobiography : Women

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