



All We Know of Heaven

By Villegas, Anna Tuttle

St Martins Press, Gordonsville, Virginia, U.S.A., 1997. Hardcover. Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Edition. From Publishers Weekly In this artfully written but somewhat manipulative first novel, Villegas sets out to explore the very modern country of living (and loving) with AIDS. Dolores Meredith, realtor in a small Northern California town, poet manque and parttime creative writing teacher, finally sells the Leland House? a gorgeous but dilapidated Queen Anne relic that she adores? to Austin Barclay, a successful lawyer newly returned from New York to teach and mellow. Inevitably, they become involved, fall in love and renovate together? and then their love is tested. Austin learns he is HIV positive, and Dolores must decide whether to walk away or stay with him to the bitter end. Because the story is so simple and predictable, the pleasure of the text is found in the style. Each chapter begins with a poem by Emily Dickinson, which serves as the impetus for a prose meditation on a certain aspect of love. Villegas's voice is charmingly mannered (an echo of the poet) but never attains Dickinson's unblinking vision of life. The character Jorge, Dolores' six year old barrio poetry student, for example, is...



Reviews

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-- Nannie Lindgren Jr.

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-- Alyce Lemke

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