

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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What's Never Said.

Shapiro, Susan (Author)

Aug 2015. 278 p. Heliotrope, hardcover, \$23. (9781942762164).

Shapiro (*Overexposed*, 2010) weaves the classic tale of a professor-student romance. Lila Penn, Midwestern and naive, begins a graduate writing program in Greenwich Village, snaring her professor, Daniel Wildman, with her creativity and youth. Daniel, unlike some of the other faculty, has never been passionately involved with a student, until now. As the novel begins, Lila and Daniel are married to other people, and she has secretly arrived at Daniel's book signing to see him for the first time in 30 years. Shapiro methodically retells their inappropriate romance, jumping back and forth in time, alternating perspective between the two, recounting the circumstances that forced them apart. Shapiro playfully welcomes readers into the world of academia, from departmental strife and drama to poetry pick-up lines, creative angst, and college firsts in scenes that can feel a bit forced, though many will find the ivory-tower satire entertaining. And Lila and Daniel are vivid characters. Their relationship evocatively captures the power of a formative romance, as they now struggle through nostalgia and regret, proving that a love past is not always a love lost. Kleenex recommended.

— Sarah Grant