



January 2017

Dear Reader,

Thirty years after her debut novel, *From Rockaway*, earned her a place among the legendary “literary brat pack” of the 1980s, **Jill Eisenstadt** returns with an unflinching new novel: **SWELL (Little, Brown, June 6, 2017)**. It’s a darkly funny look at characters both old and new—and the return of a major literary talent.

When Sue and Dan Glassman moved into their new house in Rockaway, Queens, they cared more about escaping from their cramped Tribeca apartment than they did about the house itself. With two daughters and a third baby on the way, the family was so desperate for more room that Sue even finally gave in to her father-in-law’s demand that she convert to Judaism so that he’d help out with the purchase. As her oldest daughter puts it, she “sold her soul for a sea view and a few extra bathrooms.” Then there’s the fact that the house is in need of major repair, is known around town as “The Murder House,” and might be haunted.

On the weekend of Sue’s conversion party, the house’s previous owner, ninety-year-old Rose, escapes from her assisted living facility and shows up at the door. And while the house is nothing special to the Glassmans, Rose—who once literally got away with murder there—is not quite ready to part with it. In fact, suitcase in tow, she seems intent on moving back in. Meanwhile, the Glassmans’ neighbor Tim (who originally appeared in *From Rockaway*) is also drawn into their orbit. Before long, the situation in the house begins to spin out of control.

Swell is a deft exploration of family, relationships, and the perils of living in a world rife with uncertainty. By turns insightful and grimly hilarious, this kaleidoscope-like novel presents a world forever shifting under the feet of both readers and characters until even the most outrageous events begin to seem reasonable.

Jill Eisenstadt is the author of the novels *From Rockaway* and *Kiss Out*. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, the *Boston Review*, *New York Magazine*, and *BOMB*. She lives in Brooklyn.

With *Swell*, **Eisenstadt** marks her return to the literary scene, three decades after she first made a name for herself among the ranks of writers like Bret Easton Ellis and Donna Tartt. The publication will coincide with the re-release of *From Rockaway*, a literary event sure to delight **Eisenstadt**’s old fans and earn her plenty of new ones as well.

I hope that you will consider *Swell* and the re-release of *From Rockaway* for your summer coverage, and I look forward to speaking with you more about this terrific new novel from a legendary literary voice.

Sincerely,

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