

Acclaim for
Christina Schwarz's Fiction

SO LONG AT THE FAIR

“Schwarz shows the fragility, complexity, and danger inherent in love...unsparing and heartbreaking...a true American tragedy full of love as well as despair.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

ALL IS VANITY

“Enthralling... [A] funny yet touching tale.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“Funny and fast-paced... A devastatingly accurate picture of misguided ambition and self-delusion.” —*USA Today*

“A page-turner... Fearless... Schwarz's portrait of the travails of the talentless, self-absorbed Margaret is surgically accurate... The story is like one of those amusement park rides that feature a straight drop from great heights.” —*New York Times Book Review*

“Entertaining... Margaret and Letty's downward spiral is a perverse pleasure to behold—and a cautionary tale about materialism and trust.” —*Newsweek*

“*All Is Vanity* deftly uncovers the pitfalls of greed and addresses the complexity of human relationships with bittersweet humor.” —*Elle*

“The novel sweeps you along... Schwarz has a wicked eye for human foibles.”
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“Poisonous good fun and a little heart-breaking, too.” —*Library Journal*

“The author proves herself to be witty, as well as wise, as she effortlessly highlights the ludicrous aspects of precocious children, aspiring authors, elitist English majors, ambitious mothers, and upwardly mobile Californians.” —*BookPage*

“A wicked rumination on the nature of female friendship, ambition, and envy.”
—*New York Post*

DROWNING RUTH

“Powerful... Suspenseful... Richly textured... [A] chilling, precociously good start to a bright new novelist's career.”

—*The New York Times*

“Gripping... A story of deep family rivalries... a remarkable debut.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Riveting... A very suspenseful tale, one that will keep readers up shivering in the night.”

—*USA Today*

“[A] gripping psychological thriller.... Told in the voices of several of the main characters and skipping back and forth in time, the narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning.... Schwarz certainly succeeds at keeping the reader engrossed.”

—Francine Prose, *US Weekly*

“A strong sense of portend and unusually vivid characters distinguish this mesmerizing first novel about horrifying family secrets and nearly annihilating guilt. *Drowning Ruth* is a complete and rewarding debut.”

—Anita Shreve, author of the *Pilot's Wife*

“Compelling... The immediately impressive thing about *Drowning Ruth* is not the author's talent, though that is apparent within the first few pages, but the ambitious narrative scheme she's devised to tell her tale.

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Schwarz pays meticulous attention to her characters.... *Drowning Ruth* offers tender gifts—the shore, the lake, the island, all keeping their own mysteries.”

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“The real power of Schwarz's narrative is her characters, whose tortured self-examinations evoke empathy and engage the reader in meditation about unconditional love, self-imposed parameters of happiness, and sadly, a manufactured sense of home that has more to do with obligation than with love or belonging.”

—*Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*

“Captivating... Not only a tantalizing tale, but also a commentary on the precarious balance of weakness and strength and good and evil in the human soul.”

—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“[A] page-turner... A tale all the more disturbing because it is unmistakably human.... It remains gripping to the end.”

—*The New York Post*

“[A] haunting debut... The perfect read for a stormy night... filled with simmering family secrets.”

—*Marie Claire*