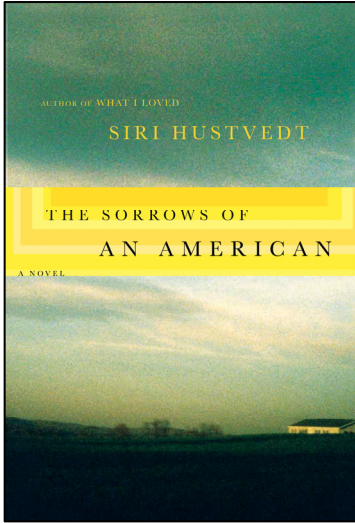




A soaring, epic tale of the immigrant experience and one family's secrets

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“In THE SORROWS OF AN AMERICAN, Siri Hustvedt deals with our lives when they are jolted by death. The mysteries that are uncovered sometimes are without answers, the people we thought we knew in life turn out to be different, and the impact of others’ lives on our own is unpredictable. There are two major deaths in the book, of a parent and a spouse, but she also examines other deaths, those of relationships and ideals. Hustvedt creates characters of varied ages and both genders who are all struggling with perceptions and realities. The reader is drawn into their world from the first page. This is not a bleak novel, however. Throughout we are inspired by not only the frailties of human nature, but the overwhelming resilience of spirit. Ultimately this is a story of heroes both dead and living.”
 -- Sue Zumberge, Common Good Books, Saint Paul, MN

Siri Hustvedt’s novel begins with a mystery as Erik Davidsen and his sister Inga find a disturbing note among their dead father’s papers which seems to implicate him in a murder. With subtlety and skill, the author merges the grieving siblings desire to understand their dead father’s past, during the depression and World War II, with their own complex lives in New York City.

Hustvedt draws on her own family’s history in Minnesota (the diary and journal in the book belonged to her late father) and her fascination with psychiatry as she creates a quintessential American story of Norwegian-American immigration and assimilation and its unspoken legacies. The result is a novel of exquisitely moving prose that reveals one family’s hidden sorrows through an extraordinary mosaic of secrets and stories that reflect the fragmented nature of identity itself.

Siri Hustvedt returns to her Midwest roots with the publication of **THE SORROWS OF AN AMERICAN**. She is the author of three previously novels, the critically acclaimed *What I Loved*, *The Blindfold*, and *The Enchantment of Lily Dahl*.

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