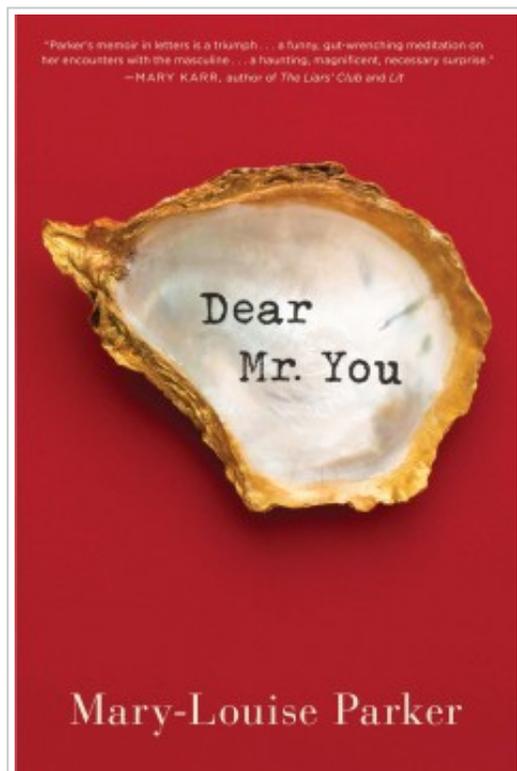


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Dear Mr. You

by Mary -Louise Parker

Price: \$25.00(Hardcover)

Published: November 10, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: A wonderfully unconventional literary debut from the award-winning actress Mary-Louise Parker.

An extraordinary literary work, *Dear Mr. You* renders the singular arc of a woman's life through letters Mary-Louise Parker composes to the men, real and hypothetical, who have informed the person she is today. Beginning with the grandfather she never knew, the letters range from a missive to the beloved priest from her childhood to remembrances of former lovers to an homage to a firefighter she encountered to a heartfelt communication with the uncle of the infant daughter she adopted. Readers will be amazed by the depth and style of these letters, which reveal the complexity and power to be found in relationships both loving and fraught.

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What We Say

What a clever fox Mary-Louise Parker proves to be. She gets the best of both worlds by a single stroke of genius: this memoir-ish novel (or novelistic memoir) is structured as a series of letters from Parker to the men in her life. They range from a poetic salvo that opens the book addressing them one and all to a moving finale of the imaginary oyster man she imagines gathering the oysters that made up one of the last good moments for her dying father. Parker delivers a short story for all intents and purposes with a letter addressed to the dogs in her life -- not the animals but the boyfriends who behaved like dogs, here transformed into actual dogs in a head-spinning allegory that is funny and caustic and utterly unanswerable. (What guy can complain about it, since if they see themselves in it they are damning their own doggy ways?) Truth and better-than-truth (i.e. fiction) merge here, with Parker's adoption of a child in Africa to imagining herself talking to that oyster man in a cinematic scene where they are watched from a distance, the actual words she says lost in the noise of the surf. Parker nails details of acting school with deadpan hilarity, skewers herself happily, celebrates her children and so much more. You won't find any dissection of her many theatrical triumphs or dishing of backstage dirt. Rather marvelously, "Dear Mr. You" is both disarmingly intimate (I feel like I know her) and a bravura performance. And isn't that what great acting (and great writing) are often about? This is her first book but surely not her last. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

"Mary-Louise Parker's Dear Mr. You is straight-up fantastic; a gripping and deeply humane and often hilarious book. It catches glimpses of life at all sorts of unexpected moments, electrifying them with its sharp-eyed astonishment at how absurd and joyous things can get. There's nothing cheaply-earned about its wonder; nothing sugarcoated in its gratitude. It's all grit, all messy particulars—full of surprise and full-throated in its song." - **Leslie Jamison, author of The Empathy Exams**

"To have an artist accomplished in one genre triumph in another—seemingly out of the blue—is an extraordinary event. Mary-Louise Parker's Dear Mr. You is a pants-pissingly funny, gut-wrenching meditation on her loving and tormented encounters with the masculine. From grandfather to father to son to the wacky, pre-Burning Man hippie with a loincloth who haunts her at a co-op job to the lover who deserves the coda 'Sleep tight, little monster.' Whether honoring the ash-covered firefighter she sees on 9/11 or shouting as a crazy person at her malignantly lost cabdriver, Parker merges memoir with poetry in this haunting, sui generis work. I drank it down in one gulp,...

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