

Contact: Terrie Akers
Publicist / Other Press
(212) 414-0971
terrie@otherpress.com

THE WOMAN *in the* ROW BEHIND

by
FRANÇOISE DORNER

“A sophisticated, stylish meditation about the unexpected connections between longing and sex, and...the impossibility of really knowing...those people to whom we are most attached....A grim, sharp-edged look at the emotional emptiness of marital intimacy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This slim, swift read demonstrates talent and potential and will appeal to urban sophisticates looking for the latest in world fiction.”

—*Library Journal*

THE WOMAN IN THE ROW BEHIND by Françoise Dorner was the winner of the Prix Goncourt du premier Roman when it was originally published in France in 2004. Translated by Adriana Hunter, who was also the translator of *The Sexual Life of Catherine M*, this sexy debut novel explores the deepest, darkest corners of desire and married life.

Imagine that you have a double identity. Sometimes, you are Nina—the vaguely bored and dissatisfied wife of a Parisian magazine kiosk owner. And sometimes, you are the Chinese Woman—the jasmine scented girl who haunts the back row of the local movie theatre; the woman who is the love of your husband’s life. The problem is, your husband doesn’t know that you’re the same person.

Nina and Roger spend most of their time wrapped up in a humdrum domestic existence until Nina begins to wonder: What makes a woman desirable? What makes her loved? Desperate to regain Roger’s seemingly lost affection, Nina’s desire for the answers to these questions leads her into a web of shady affairs and casual deceptions, all of which she maintains with frightening ease, while her husband grows more and more withdrawn. From this divide, and influenced by her perusal of porn magazines, an idea is born: if Nina can’t gain Roger’s attention, then she will have to become someone else.

Françoise Dorner is an actress, playwright, and screenwriter. In 1994, she was awarded the Prix du Jeune Theatre by the Academie Francaise for her two plays. She lives in Paris.

“This snappy, funny first novel by French playwright Dorner (awarded the Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman last year) observes the sad, sweet machinations of a bored young working-class Parisian wifeAs powerful feelings and further experimentation take hold, Dorner does a lovely job of showing the stakes in the marriage and its fault lines.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

THE WOMAN IN THE ROW BEHIND by François Dorner

Other Press | Paperback Original | June 13, 2006 | \$14 | p. 128 | ISBN: 1-59051-186-7