



News from

Red Hen Press

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## Unending Nora

by

Julie Shigekuni

*Unending Nora* is a love story, though not in the ordinary sense. Having retreated to the streets of the east San Fernando Valley amidst an intense heat wave, Nora Yano, who has lived the first 29 years of her life as a devout Christian and an outcast, strikes up a relationship with a stranger and experiences sexual intimacy for the first time. When Nora mysteriously disappears, her best friends, each with their own lives to consider, must decide what they're willing to risk to find her. The complications that ensue, along with an unexpected arrival home, set this novel in motion. Beneath the stories of these compelling women, Shigekuni creates in *Unending Nora* web of ideas concerning the after effects of wartime internment. Fresh out of the camps, a displaced and emotionally scarred generation clustered together to form a community; they even took on a religion in order to adapt to the society that oppressed them. Now their offspring, four young women coming of age in their thirties, must carve their own path.

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### *Unending Nora*

Fiction by Julie Shigekuni

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312 pages

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Julie Shigekuni is the author of two previous novels: *A Bridge Between Us* (Anchor/Doubleday 1995), which was a finalist for the Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Award and recipient of the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature, and *Invisible Gardens* (St. Martin's Press 2003). She grew up in Southern California, fled high school for the University of California at Santa Cruz, and subsequently lived in Tokyo and London. She received her B.A. from CUNY Hunter College and her M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College. She is currently at work on a novella and short story collection entitled *Beep on Me*, and a 60-minute video documentary, *Manju Mammás & the An-Pan Brigade*. She is director of the creative writing program and Development Director of Asian American Studies at the University of New Mexico.

### Praise for *Unending Nora*

Julie Shigekuni's prose is shimmering and hallucinatory. The beauty of her writing turns the heat and hard times of California into a dreamscape.

—Ann Patchett

In *Unending Nora*, Julie Shigekuni explores both the stories that connect us and the silences that keep us apart. This graceful and compassionate novel reminds us how we can never fully know the people in our lives, including (and maybe even especially) ourselves.

—Gayle Brandeis, author of *The Book of Dead Birds* and *Self Storage*