



Advance Praise

for *Strange Love*

“ *Strange Love* is a hard book to put down—an effect which might take some by surprise: after all, these first-person stories are serial episodes in the love life of a woman writer in middle age, who already has the room of her own and the first book, but wants—fiercely—a love of her own into the bargain. Why is this so fascinating? First, Lisa Lenzo writes (has always written) with a rare directness and candor, not so much about sex (although sex is definitely part of the deal, in *Strange Love*) as about the hunger for attachment, and the lengths to which a strong and independent woman might go to satisfy it. Second, there’s something at once shocking and deeply familiar about the parade of interesting yet damaged men who present themselves to a woman over forty in the market for a second marriage. Lenzo’s portraits of Annie and her men are polished, raw, infuriating, and sympathetic, all at the same time. ”

—Jaimy Gordon

“ The narrative of a conventional novel also becomes the design of its main character’s life. But in Lisa Lenzo’s *Strange Love*—a novel-in-stories—her character, Annie, who yearns for love to shape her life, finds love to be elusive and all but shapeless. It is that kind of challenging honesty that informs and distinguishes this intimate book along with Lenzo’s dependably wise humor, her vivid and credible character portraits, and her charming way with anecdotes—in other words, with her consummate skill as a storyteller. ”

—Stuart Dybek

“ Beyond the map lies the territory within, and the characters that reside in Lisa Lenzo’s rural Michigan charm with their daredevil imperative to love and lose and to seek love yet again. With the gravity and momentum of a novel, and the intensity and focus of the short story, *Strange Love* is pitch-perfect, a blend of comedy and pathos, folly and hope, simultaneously small-town and so big-hearted that I did not, upon turning the final page, want this book to end. A storyteller of unusual powers. ”

—Jack Driscoll

MADE IN MICHIGAN WRITERS SERIES