



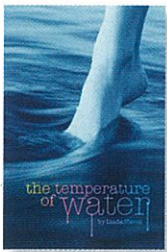
Bookshelf

Eleanor Black Watkin helps you choose the hottest books from among the new releases

The Temperature of Water

Linda Niccol

There is a deep gothic streak to local writer Linda Niccol's work; she's acerbic, blunt, a bit naughty, and therein lies the salty pleasure in reading her.



In this, her second collection of stories, she plays with the idea of failed and failing relationships in the way that a cat plays with a dead bird. For example Carol, Unplugged is a disturbing tale about a former corporate high-flyer whose brain injury has left her unable to function at a level much beyond that of a 10-year-old. Her husband takes her to a cafe but the outing just serves to remind him of the woman Carol used to be. A little trivia: Niccol co-wrote the screenplay for *Second Hand Wedding* and is the sister of film director/writer Andrew Niccol (*Gattaca*, *The Truman Show*). (Silver Owl Press, \$29.99)