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Glass Grapes and Other Stories

by Martha Ronk

Glass Grapes and Other Stories is the first full-length collection of short stories by distinguished American poet Martha Ronk. Ronk writes with grace, beauty, syntactical rigor, and the same attention to language as our most accomplished poetry. *Glass Grapes* is divided into three sections: the first has a similar narrator throughout, albeit at different times in her obsessive life; the second introduces different narrators, many of whom are collectors; and part three focuses on the dissolution of narrative in ways that are occasionally comic or at least wry. No one is as skilled as Ronk at laying bare the inner workings of an obsessive mind. Part of the reason for her success is that her language is so precise and her sentences so deft that the reader has no choice but to follow along until Ronk decides to release them. The result is a trip through the psyche of an acutely aware and fiercely intelligent mind.

Praise for earlier work:

“... Ronk’s sincere desire to comprehend a reality that refuses to hold still for analysis generates an unexpected and uniquely human warmth.”

—*Boston Review*

“... An airy, evanescent tone and long, drifting sentences that blend memory with the present.” Ronk “masterfully operates at the intersection of meditative investigation and day-to-day domesticity.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Ronk’s “language is in the mood for mischief, while still being acutely attentive to its own unreliability. . . . sparkingly original work where ordinariness veers coolly and equivocation beguiles.”

—Molly Bendall, author of *Ariadne’s Island*

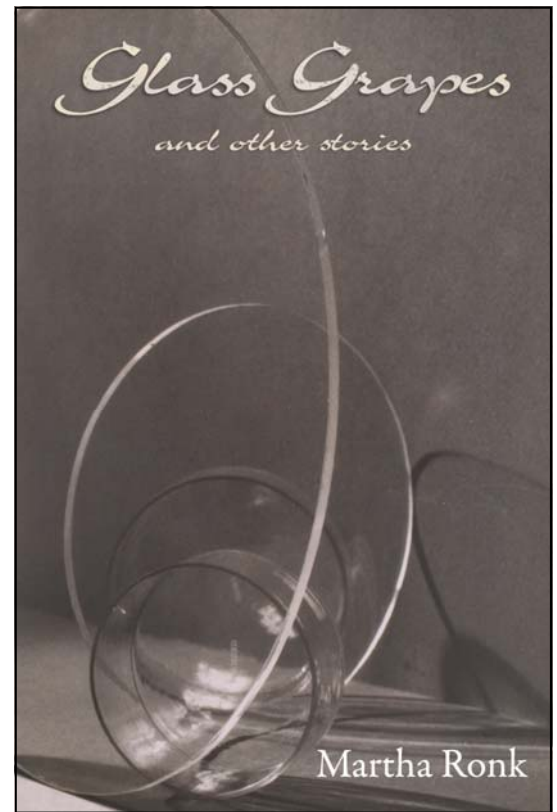


About the Author

Martha Ronk is the author of three chapbooks and eight books of poetry, most recently *Vertigo*, a National Poetry Series Selection published by Coffee House Press (2007), and *In a landscape of having to repeat*, Omnidawn Press, winner of the 2005 PEN USA Best Poetry Book Award. She has been a resident at both Djerassi and MacDowell, and is a 2007 recipient of an NEA Fellowship. Ronk’s fiction has appeared in *Tantalum*, *Fence*, *American Letters* and *Commentary*, untitled, *The Harvard Review*, *Hambone*, and *The Southern Review*. She has been an editor for Littoral Press (1993-2003) and for *The New Review of Literature* (2003-2008). She teaches Renaissance Literature and Creative Writing at Occidental College in Los Angeles where she is the Irma and Jay Price Professor of English.

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