

DEAR READERS,

There is a saying “No two persons ever read the same book.” When I began writing novels, I discovered the truth of that statement. Every reader saw my stories in their own way. It was occasionally disconcerting, but always fascinating, and I loved how a book could create a common space where people could disagree with curiosity rather than controversy. We may all see different meanings in a book, but we all share the magical experience of reading.



Photo Credit: Susan Doupé

What would it be like, I wondered, to turn that experience into a book itself? A novel that would start with the creation of a fictional book and then follow it out into the world, viewing it through the eyes of a variety of readers. A free diver. A homeless teenager. A bookseller looking for love. A widower racked by grief. An exiled actor. A literary agent and her assistant. Strangers to each other, connected by the experience of reading a book called *Theo*, and interwoven, as well, in ways they may never know.

*No Two Persons* was my port in the pandemic storm. Every morning I went down to my writing studio and these characters entered my heart, filled my mind and imagination. I hope they will do the same for you—in all the ways you may see them.

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Erica Bauermeister".

ERICA BAUERMEISTER

