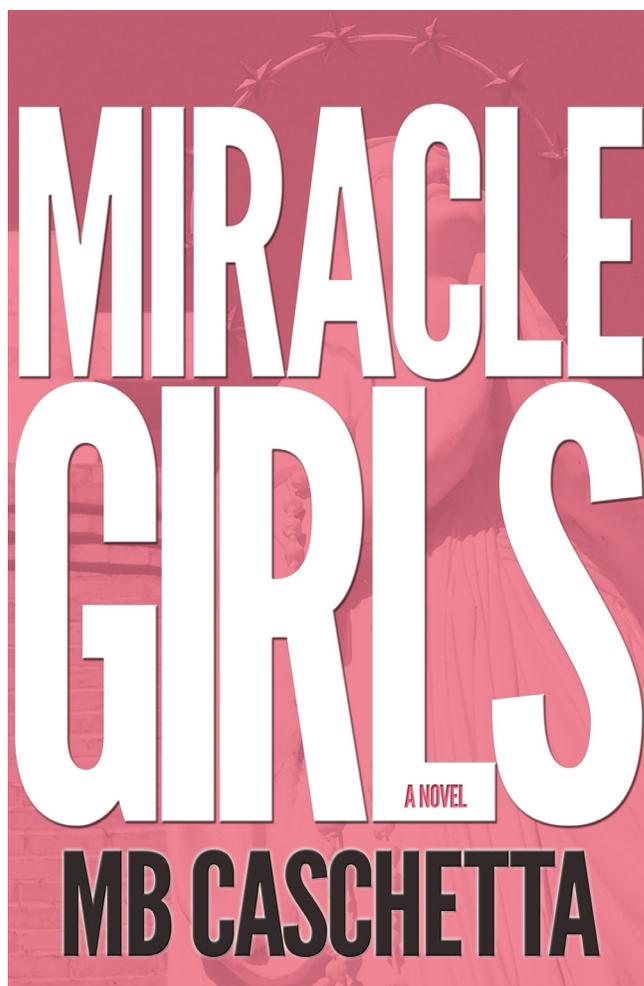


# MIRACLE GIRLS

A NOVEL BY MB CASCHETTA

*in paperback original and ebook from Engine Books*



It's 1973 in Central New York and girls are disappearing in record numbers. The Biancos have gotten used to ten-year-old Cee-Cee's visions, but when Baby Pauly falls into a coma after witnessing a brutal crime in the woods and Cee-Cee performs a miracle, the Sisters of the Order of Christ's Most Precious Wounds take a special interest in her future. Meanwhile, the Sisters themselves are keeping a secret that could change countless lives. Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam war, Watergate, and dramatic shifts in American family life, **MIRACLE GIRLS** tells the story of one family, one town, and one remarkable girl that might be the story of all our lives.

*from Miracle Girls:*

When Cee-Cee closes her eyes, she can suddenly see all the missing girls in the Mohawk Valley. It's part of the message: they are buried in wheat fields and stashed behind train tracks, or sprawled at the bottom of the canal. *Could have been you*, one dead girl says, smart-mouthed. *But instead it was me!* A live one tied up somewhere in a basement cocks her head: *But guess what—you're next!*

Cee-Cee tries to focus, but a terrible headache rises from the back of her neck, as if someone has struck her there. She should take her medicine, but Mrs. Patrick took away the pink bottles. In the thicket overhead, the branches are picked clean as bones, no longer swaying. Now she steps back until her heels butt up against the fat oak tree.

In the woods, everything is silent. Even the trees stand still.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MB CASCHETTA is a recipient of the Sherwood Anderson Foundation Fiction Award, the W.K. Rose Fellowship for Emerging Artists, and the *Seattle Review* Fiction Prize. Her stories have appeared in *Small Spiral Notebook*, *Mississippi Review*, *Del Sol Review*, and *Red Rock Review*, among many others. She is the author of *Lucy on the West Coast* (Alyson 1997), a book of short stories, which *Ms. Magazine* called "a spectacular collection...a sensitive and telling portrait of contemporary American Life..." Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Body & Soul Magazine*, and various print anthologies. She lives in Massachusetts.



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