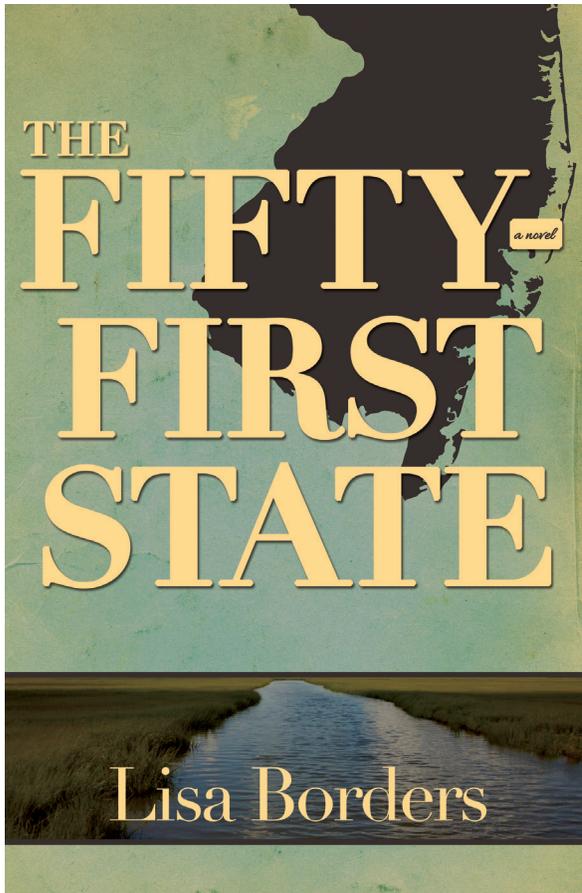


THE FIFTY-FIRST STATE

A NOVEL BY LISA BORDERS

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After her father’s death, Hallie Corson returns from her New York photographer’s life to her South Jersey hometown to care for her long-estranged brother, Josh, during his final year of high school. As they learn their family’s history, and to live together and love one another, Josh and Hallie will invite disaster into their lives, and will manage to navigate dangerous currents, keeping further losses at bay.

Hallie turned the corner onto Bleecker as Nancy started talking, but when she began to realize what Nancy was getting at, that her father and his second wife were both dead, Hallie stopped walking and whirled around, looking for a place to sit. When she didn’t find one, she stood still for a second, the cell phone in one hand, the coffee in the other; to a casual observer, the cup slipping from her hand might have looked like simple clumsiness, even as it hit the ground and splattered milky-brown liquid on her shoes and she made no move away from it, no attempt to step from the puddle forming at her feet.

“*The Fifty-First State* is an embrace of a novel—warm, intimate, enveloping—and, like all the best embraces, it starts with a thrill and ends before you are entirely ready

to let go. I read it in one sitting and would have found a way to do the same even if it were twice as long.” —Yael Goldstein Love, *AUTHOR OF THE PASSION OF TASHA DARSKY*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LISA BORDERS grew up in Central and Southern New Jersey. She is the author of the novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, winner of the Fred Bonnie Award for Best First Novel and fiction honors in the 2003 Massachusetts Book Awards. Lisa lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, and teaches at Grub Street, Boston’s independent writing center. She also works as a cytotechnologist.

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