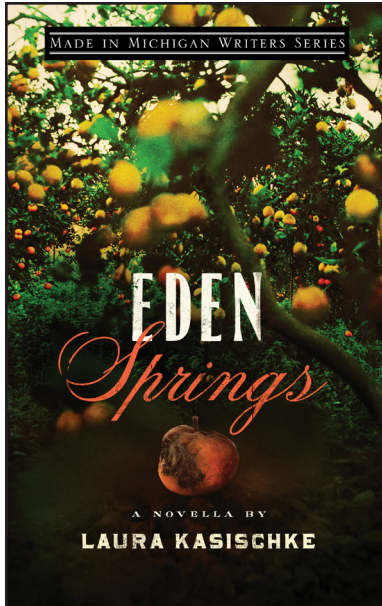




NEWS FROM WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

For immediate release

*New Novella by Michigan Author Laura Kasischke
Ripe with Mystery, Scandal, and Little-Known History*



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Made in Michigan Writers Series

From the acclaimed author of *In a Perfect World*, *Eden Springs* takes readers inside the House of David, a religious settlement founded in 1903 outside of Benton Harbor, Michigan. In fictional chapters framed by real newspaper clippings, legal documents, and accounts of former colonists, Laura Kasischke imagines life inside the compound as a scandal is brewing within its walls. A gravedigger has seen something suspicious in a recently buried casket; a loyal assistant to Benjamin Purnell, charismatic founder of the colony, is plotting a cover-up; talk is swirling about unmarried girls having babies; and a rebellious girl named Lena is ready to tell the truth.

Kasischke leads readers through the unraveling mystery in a lyrical patchwork as enticing and satisfying as the story itself. This novella will appeal to all readers of fiction, as well as those with an interest in Michigan history.

About the House of David: In 1903, a preacher named Benjamin Purnell and five followers founded a colony called the House of David in Benton Harbor, Michigan, where they prepared for eternal life by creating a heaven on earth. Housed in rambling mansions and surrounded by lush orchards and vineyards, the colony added a thousand followers to its fold within a few years, along with a zoo, extensive gardens, and an amusement park. The sprawling complex, called Eden Springs, was a major tourist attraction of the Midwest. The colonists, who were drawn from far and wide by the magnetic “King Ben,” were told to keep their bodies pure by not cutting their hair, eating meat, or engaging in sexual relations. Yet accounts of life within the colony do not reflect such an austere atmosphere, as the handsome, charming founder is described as loving music, dancing, a good joke, and in particular, the company of his attractive female followers.

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Wayne State University Press
The Leonard N. Simons Building
4809 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48201-1309

Phone: (800) WSU-READ

Fax: (313) 577-6131

wsupress.wayne.edu

For more information, please contact Sarah Murphy, Promotions Manager, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6077 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; murphysa@wayne.edu. To learn more about the Press, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.

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