

# **SILK EGG**

*COLLECTED NOVELS*

## *Also by Eileen R. Tabios*

### **Poetry**

- After the Egyptians Determined the Shape of the World is a Circle*, 1996  
*Beyond Life Sentences*, 1998  
*The Empty Flagpole* (CD with guest artist Mei-mei Berssenbrugge), 2000  
*Ecstatic Mutations*, 2001 (with short stories and essays)  
*Reproductions of The Empty Flagpole*, 2002  
*Enbeduanna in the 21st Century*, 2002  
*There, Where the Pages Would End*, 2003  
*Menage a Trois With the 21st Century*, 2004  
*Crucial Bliss Epilogues*, 2004  
*The Estrus Gaze(s)*, 2005  
*POST BLING BLING*, 2005  
*I Take Thee, English, For My Beloved*, 2005  
*The Secret Lives of Punctuations, Vol. I*, 2006  
*Dredging for Atlantis*, 2006  
*It's Curtains*, 2006  
*SILENCES: The Autobiography of Loss*, 2007  
*The Singer and Others: Flamenco Hay(na)ku*, 2007  
*The Light Sang As It Left Your Eyes: Our Autobiography*, 2007  
*NOTA BENE EISWEIN*, 2009  
*Footnotes to Algebra: Uncollected Poems 1995–2009*, 2009  
*Roman Holiday*, 2010  
*THE THORN ROSARY: Selected Prose Poems and New 1998–2010*, 2010

### **Short Story Collection**

- Behind The Blue Canvas*, 2004

### **Prose Collections**

- Black Lightning*, 1998 (poetry essays/interviews)  
*My Romance*, 2002 (art essays with poems)  
*The Blind Chatelaine's Keys*, 2008 (biography with haybun)

# **Silk Egg**

*Collected Novels*  
(2009–2009)

**EILEEN R. TABIOS**

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(10" x 8" ink and acrylic on paper).

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See page 130.

*for Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Arthur Sze and John Yau  
whose innovative outlooks helped me years ago to find a path  
that led to this book*

*and*

*for Philip Lamantia who, in response to my complaint over not  
being able to draw a straight line, replied, "Draw a curve."*



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## **Silk Egg**



## Chapter I

At the most infinitesimal hint of light, she closed like a purple mirabilis jalapa folding petals into a frozen fist.

Her birthland is replete with child soldiers.

## Chapter II

A thick glass tumbler bearing ice and amber looked cheerfully judicial.

Pronounced “rehabilitated,” he was allowed to accompany her home.

Her bedroom was designed as an egg. Hence, silk walls of a pale blue once discerned staining Antarctic ice.

He moved into her gift, woke each morning to soft warm lucidity, and agreed as regards the irrelevance of ribbons.

### Chapter III

Once, there was biology.

It produced a mother whose absence was a singe.

It sang.

It replaced marrow—a song camouflaged by inevitably aging bone.

## Chapter IV

With his watch on her mahogany night stand, she no longer longed for blue streaks to blossom from her hair. *Realism*, she conceded, can suddenly become synonym for *Desire*.

## **Chapter V**

Look where the window view finally stops.  
“Sky is better than aspirin.”

## Chapter VI

The evenings are always pleasingly raw.  
Air forgets to chill.



## Chapter VII

They both forget to dream about empty chairs.

They both forget to dream of a long-haired lady in a white taffeta gown, ignored in a hotel lobby as she strums and croons to a gilded harpsichord.