



# Washing the Dead

*Michelle Brafman*

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## **Washing the Dead** Michelle Brafman

“Intimate, big-hearted, compassionate and clear-eyed, Brafman’s novel turns secrets into truths and the truth into the heart of fiction.” —**AMY BLOOM**, author of *Lucky Us* and *Away*

“From roots in one religious tradition, comes a tale of emotional redemption for all of us. Michelle Brafman’s astonishing compassion for all human frailty infuses this story about the need for truth and the promise of forgiveness.” —**HELEN SIMONSON**, author of *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand*

“Heartfelt and genuine, *Washing the Dead* never betrays the complicated truths of family and tradition.”  
— **DAVID BEZMOZGIS**, author of *Natasha and Other Stories* and *The Betrayers*

“Like a Jewish Anne Lamott, Brafman reels you in with warmth, depth and heart.” —**SUSAN COLL**, author of *The Stager* and *Acceptance*

Three generations of women confront family secrets in this exquisitely wrought debut novel that examines the experience of religious community, the perilous emotional path to adulthood, and the power of sacred rituals to repair damaged bonds between mothers and daughters.

**Michelle Brafman**’s award-winning short stories and essays have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Tablet*, *Lilith Magazine*, *Bethesda Magazine* and elsewhere. She teaches fiction writing at the Johns Hopkins University MA in Writing Program and lives in Glen Echo, Maryland with her husband and two children.

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