

These interrelated stories are a group of small, intense fires that form a large-scale conflagration. There are few books that portray the acts of trust, the violations of trust, the shaky truces, and the revenges of extended family as this one. Fioravanti's working-class characters try to reverse the spell of hopelessness they have been cast under by family members or by lovers or by the broken promises of Brooklyn. Each brilliant page of *Garbage Night at the Opera* intimately places you inside the characters' hearts and minds as they reckon with what cannot be salvaged-- and what can.

**Kevin McIlvoy**

author of the *Complete History of New Mexico and Other Stories* and *Hyssop*

*Garbage Night at the Opera* takes us deep into the heart of Greenpoint, the neighborhood I lived in for many years. Here, at last, is the real Brooklyn: gritty, tender, workaday, brave. Fioravanti's characters are so vivid I felt as if I were watching them in real life. Her prose is unsentimental, intense, and enthralling.

**Kate Christenson**

**Garbage Night**

at the  
*Opera*  
& other short stories

These stories charm, illuminate and intrigue. They provoke the heart and comfort the mind, and display the generosity and wisdom characteristic of the best of short fiction. Long after I turned the last page, the reader is part of the texture of these worlds, rocked in the fabric of the writer's vision

**Jacquelyn Mitchard**

author "The Deep of the Ocean" and *Second Nature: A Love Story*

With *Garbage Night at the Opera*, Valerie Fioravanti establishes herself as a writer to watch. The stories are written with wit and style, and she manages--in story after story--to touch upon something profoundly human. This is a terrific book.

**Robert Boswell**



*Garbage Night at the Opera* Valerie Fioravanti



Valerie Fioravanti

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winner of the G.S. Sharat Chandra Prize  
for Short Fiction selected by Jacquelyn Mitchard