


**UNSPENT MOTION, Novella and Short Stories,
Highlights Themes of Transformation in Women’s Lives**

Unspent Motion, a collection of literary short fiction comprised of a novella and seven short stories, places at its centerpiece transformative experiences of appealing protagonists, many of whom are older women. Inspired reviews have greeted these compelling stories by Berkeley author Celeste Newbrough. The author masterfully builds suspense through character. Each of the narratives traces the rite of passage of an ordinary woman encountering existential issues such as loss, illness, privation and crime, compelling the characters to self-discovery and change. Breathtaking prose and sensual settings from the Northwest to New Orleans create an authentic American landscape.

Celeste Newbrough, resides in the San Francisco Bay Area and has lived in New Orleans, Santa Fe, New England, and Washington State. Her prior works include *Pagan Psalms*, *The Zanscripts*, and *The Archetype Strikes Back*. She has been widely published in literary and feminist journals, and her books have been internationally translated and reviewed.

For information or a review copy contact:
sales@onecraftpublishing.com
Tel. (510) 507-2515

“Thumbs up to ride in this womanist world—open road ahead, youth in the rear view mirror. These women want freedom—freedom for a big white dog, for the criminal, for a mother’s art, for themselves and for those they love. Any hitchhiker free enough to sit on a ghost lap, ride out Katrina, and catch a little Mardi Gras, stick out your thumb.”

Jo LeCoeur, author of *Blue New Orleans* and *Medicine Woods*

“[The novella] “*Child with Mannequin*...most fully realizes the theme of transformation. The main character is an oil painting created as a gesture of maternal love but then ultimately stolen from the beloved daughter it depicts. The ambitious story envisions the painting as a mute yet intelligent observer of lives representing a broad cross section of New Orleans society from the early 20th century to the floods that accompanied Hurricane Katrina in 2004. Here, where life and death are both metaphor and fact, Newbrough’s narrative carries significant weight. She makes clear how intellectual and emotional lives can transcend generations and how losses can be both permanent and permeable.”

KIRKUS Reviews

“An electrifying collection that condenses whole lives into short tales... Each story reveals the dance between age and emotion; between the past and the present; between what will pass away and what will pass on to new generations.”

Pre-press review by Cynthia Kane contributor, Huffington Post

"Engaging glimpses into the trials, transitions, and triumphs of women and their companions. Anyone who enjoys drama and anticipation will find her characters and stories compelling, building to surprising conclusions. "

Carolyn Merchant, author of *Death of Nature*, *Reinventing Eden*

"Stately and free-flowing prose with a decided literary bent. Her voice is consistent and identifiable through each story, though the characters she writes about vary in surprising and pleasing ways. [The story "Starbuck"], ostensibly about an ill-fated Samoyed dog... delves into the nature of being, freedom, conscience, and the frustration that comes from the inability to overcome injustice... Starbuck is a gem of a story."

Nathan Beauchamp, author of *Chimera*