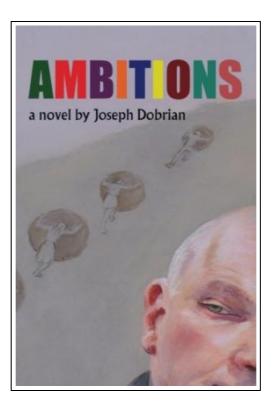
Ambitions



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Reviews

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AMBITIONS



Rex Imperator, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Teenaged Christine Wainwright s parents regard her and her musical ambitions as inconveniences. Christine s earnest, vain elder brother David is the star of the family: an up-and-coming novelist who has married into the richest family in State City, Iowa. The middle child, Melissa, is struggling with her teaching career and a choice between two men: steady, pragmatic Leander Washington and worshipful Connor Lowe. When Christine disappears, suspicion falls on the Wainwrights scheming neighbor, Andy Palinkas, who loathes Christine s parents. The unfolding mystery exposes the truth behind the Wainwrights respectable facade: a convoluted saga of unwanted children, disastrous marriages, romantic double-crosses, and domestic plots and counter-plots. Joseph Dobrian s new novel, Ambitions (Rex Imperator, 426 pps., trade paperback, \$17.95, ISBN 978-0-9835572-3-4) is a stark, elegantly written family drama set in a Midwestern university town. It s a story of aspiration, adoration, and betrayal that explores some of the ugliest realities of human interactions. At the same time, it conveys a message of hope to readers who strive to realize their own ambitions. REVIEW BY JEFF-CHARIS CARLSON, in the IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN: Like Anna Karenina, Joseph Dobrian s new novel, Ambitions, should be required reading in premarital counseling or pre-parenting classes. Like Leo Tolstoy 140 years before him, Dobrian understands intimately the profound truth within the axiom: Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. And like the thousand-page Russian masterpiece, Dobrian s 440-page Ambitions provides a veritable catalog of various unhappy marriages and parent-child relationships. Unlike Tolstoy s Konstantin Levin, however, Dobrian s authorial stand-in character, Andy Palinkas, isn t working his way through one of the family relationships in...

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