



# Driving with Dvořák

## Essays on Memory and Identity

### Fleda Brown

---

March 2010  
\$24.95 hardcover  
284 pages  
978-0-8032-2476-6  
\$31.50 Canadian/£15.00 UK

---

#### **Book Synopsis:**

All our lives are made of moments, both simple and sublime, all of which in some way partake of the cultural moment. Fleda Brown is that rare writer who, in narrating the incidents and observations of her life, turns her story, by wit and insight and a poet's gift, into something more. This is an unconventional memoir. A series of lyrical essays about life in a maddeningly complex family during the even more maddeningly complex fifties and sixties, it adds up to one woman's story while simultaneously reflecting the story of her times.

AMERICAN LIVES SERIES

#### **Included in this Press Kit:**

- [Book Description](#)
- [Author Biography](#)
- [Praise for the Book](#)
- [Additional Information](#)

## Book Description

All our lives are made of moments, both simple and sublime, all of which in some way partake of the cultural moment. Fleda Brown is that rare writer who, in narrating the incidents and observations of her life, turns her story, by wit and insight and a poet's gift, into something more. This is an unconventional memoir. A series of lyrical essays about life in a maddeningly complex family during the even more maddeningly complex fifties and sixties, it adds up to one woman's story while simultaneously reflecting the story of her times.

A strange and erratic father, a resigned and helpless mother, a mentally disabled brother, a sister with a brain tumor: folded into Brown's reflections are the intimacies and ambivalences of family and marriage, girlhood and adolescence, identity and self-knowledge. Whether reflecting on the automobile industry or a wrenching parting from beloved pets or the process of aging, Brown's telling rings with great humor, profound perception, and a lyricism that makes even the most commonplace moment uncommonly good reading.

## Author Biography

**Fleda Brown**, professor emerita at the University of Delaware and a faculty member of the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, served as Delaware's poet laureate from 2001 to 2007. Her many books include, most recently, *On the Mason-Dixon Line: An Anthology of Contemporary Delaware Writers*, coedited with Billie Travalini, and the award-winning poetry collection *Reunion*.

## Pre-Publication Praise

"Throughout this stunning book of essays, we journey into memory through a 'music made of accumulation.' Fleda Brown's voice is edgy, direct, yet surprisingly tender. A decrepit summer cottage, a brain-damaged brother, even an exhaustingly difficult father are all part of the symphony she offers her lucky readers."—Rebecca McClanahan, author of *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings*

"In these elegant, associative essays, Fleda Brown writes movingly of her metamorphosis in spirit, body, and mind from her hoop-skirted childhood to the present. Her essays are often elegiac, always tender and compassionate, her language a poet's, her memory a composer's."—Robin Hemley, director of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa

## Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book's [Web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Driving-with-Dvorak,674184.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Driving-with-Dvorak,674184.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

## Additional Information

### Events

For an up-to-date listing of author appearances, visit the Author Events and Book Signings page on the UNP Web site at: <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/Catalog/ProductEvents.aspx>

### Blog

For lively discussion, notable book reviews, and occasional podcasts of UNP titles, check out our blog at: <http://www.nebraskapress.typepad.com>

### Book Web Page

Visit this book's Web Page at:

<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Driving-with-Dvorak,674184.aspx>

### Author Web Site

<http://www.fledabrown.com>

### Review Copies, Image Requests, Author Interviews, & Excerpts

If you would like to receive a review copy, request a book cover image or author photograph, schedule an author interview, or obtain more information regarding publishing an excerpt, contact [mpress@unl.edu](mailto:mpress@unl.edu).

### Examination Copies

If you are an instructor and are interested in requesting an examination copy, please send your request to [cpress2@unl.edu](mailto:cpress2@unl.edu).