

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: February 15, 2009

Infinity in the Palm of Her Hand: A Novel of Adam and Eve.

Belli, Gioconda (Author)

Mar 2009. 244 p. HarperCollins, hardcover, \$23.99. (9780061673641).

Belli's philosophical re-creation of the Adam and Eve story is a transcendent meditation on a well-worn tale. Shimmering with provocative insight, the narrative repaints an Eden where all is not as straightforward as the Bible would have us believe. Adam and Eve are complex, humanistic creatures whose temptation and subsequent fall perhaps signal the intellectual, social, and artistic fruition of mankind. As the two struggle with new and unexpected challenges, joys, and sorrows, Eve and the serpent philosophize on a variety of searing and soul-searching topics. Rather than merely turning the biblical version on its head, Belli's luminous portrait of the first couple respectfully provides material for discussion and reconsideration. More multifaceted than Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent* (1997), this mystical rendering of Eden and beyond will be in demand by both fans of biblical fiction and book clubs.

— *Margaret Flanagan*