



VAS: An Opera in Flatland: A Novel. By Steve Tomasula. Art and Design by Stephen Farrell.

By Steve Tomasula

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VAS: An Opera in Flatland: A Novel. By Steve Tomasula. Art and Design by Stephen Farrell. By Steve Tomasula

Printed in the colors of flesh and blood, *VAS: An Opera in Flatland*—a hybrid image-text novel—demonstrates how differing ways of imagining the body generate diverse stories of history, gender, politics, and, ultimately, the literature of who we are.

A constantly surprising, *VAS* combines a variety of voices, from journalism and libretto to poem and comic book. Often these voices meet in counterpoint, and the meaning of the narrative emerges from their juxtapositions, harmonies, or discords. Utilizing a wide and historical sweep of representations of the body—from pedigree charts to genetic sequences—*VAS* is, finally, the story of finding one's identity within the double helix of language and lineage.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

First pain, then knowledge. It's the turn of the twenty-first century and Square, Oval, and the other inhabitants of Flatland find themselves slipping into a postbiological future where lying down with the scalpel is as common as buying and selling genes. *VAS* tells the story of one family at this moment in time, looking at what the body has been while imagining what it—and we—might become. Printed in the colors of flesh and blood, this stunning imagetext novel is ultimately the story of finding one's identity within the double helix of language and lineage.

"A beautifully vibrant collaboration, *VAS* balances terrifying facts and a desperate humor with ease. . . . Reading *VAS*, I felt pushed a bit higher above our own cultural Flatland, an experience both disturbing and enlightening, and one for which I am grateful."—*Review of Contemporary Fiction* "This constitutes a leap forward for the genre we call 'novel.' Collapsing nonfiction into fiction, women's reproductive concerns into men's, history into present, work into play—this novel takes juxtaposition and digression to new heights."—*American Book Review*

"Visually brilliant...*VAS: An Opera in Flatland* redesigns the novel, taking it to a dimension beyond the one in which it ordinarily lives."—*Rain Taxi*

About the Author

Steve Tomasula's short fictions and essays on the art of the body have appeared widely in this country, and in Europe. He teaches in the program for writers at the University of Notre Dame. Award-winning graphic artist and typographer Stephen Farrell has exhibited his work most recently at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design. He teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Casey:

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Linda Young:

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