

through Eileen

the début title by Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş



advance praise for *through Eileen*

“Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş has created a coming of age novella that nails what it’s like to be a teenager living on the edge. Told with precise details that are accumulated and arranged “like stars in the coming night,” through Eileen generously invites the reader into the emotional lives of James and Eileen (Leen) as they navigate the unpredictable, maddening, affectionate, obsessive, poetic journey of what a childhood friendship has the potential to morph into.”

– Karen Benke, author of *Sister* and *Leap Write In*

“In the Bay Area, a bright engaging 17-year-old playwright James and his homeschooled brilliant eccentric friend Eileen hang out, shoot the shit, study, talk, parry, drive around, attend a gallery opening: what seems like a winning funny angsty friendship/romance turns into something darker, and much more psychologically complex. What is it to encounter the world through another, to really see another? Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş writes vividly of teen life and close relationships -- and of family,

friendship, ambition, mental health, violence, love, how we do and do not know ourselves, and those closest to us.”

– Maureen N. McLane, 2012 Finalist for National Book Critics Circle Award and author of *My Poets*

“In this book, Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş explores the confusion and pain of adolescence and friendship. James and Eileen, the central characters, rely on each other in the midst of abstracted or absent parents, hostile teens, abrupt administrators and the chaos of James’ school. Eileen, the more troubled of the two, is often enigmatic and their friendship has its discords and disconnects, but is powerful and sustaining as they navigate towards adulthood.”

– Meryl Natchez, author of *Poems from the Stray Dog Café*

Available May 2020
through Ingram and Baker & Taylor



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by Maxine Flasher-Düzgüneş
978-1-943865-10-9
Retail: \$15.00 Softcover