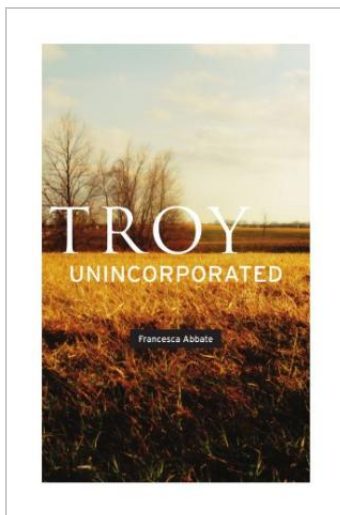




Troy, Unincorporated

By Francesca Abbate

University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 96 pages. A meditation on the nature of betrayal, the constraints of identity, and the power of narrative, the lyric monologues in *Troy, Unincorporated* offer a retelling, or refraction, of Chaucer and rsquo;s tragedy *Troilus and Criseyde*. The tale and rsquo;s unrooted characters now find themselves adrift in the industrialized farmlands, strip malls, and half-tenanted and ldquo;historic and rdquo; downtowns of south-central Wisconsin, including the real, and literally unincorporated, town of Troy. Allusive and often humorous, they retain an affinity with Chaucer, especially in terms of their roles: *Troilus*, the good courtly lover, suffers from the weeps, or, in more modern terms, depression. *Pandarus*, the hard-working catalyst who brings the lovers together in Chaucer and rsquo;s poem, is here a car mechanic. Chaucer and rsquo;s narrator tells a story he didn and rsquo;t author, claiming no power to change the course of events, and the narrator and characters in *Troy, Unincorporated* struggle against a similar predicament. Aware of themselves as literary constructs, they are paradoxically driven by the desire to be autonomous creaturestale tellers rather than tales told. Thus, though *Troy, Unincorporated* follows Chaucer and rsquo;s plot *Criseyde* falls in love with...



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