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MISS BETSEY: A MEMOIR OF MARRIAGE THE LOVE STORY BETWEEN ELIZABETH FOX- GENOVESE AND HER HUSBAND EUGENE

Wilmington, DE— In 2003, standing in the Oval Office, Elizabeth (Betsey) Fox-Genovese received the prestigious National Humanities Medal, which recognized the historian and teacher as “a defender of reason and servant of faith.” She would die from multiple sclerosis four years later at 65.

Betsey’s life would be noteworthy for her career achievements alone, which included groundbreaking works on the American South and women’s history. But as her widowed husband Eugene Genovese recounts, the honors bestowed in 2003 don’t begin to tell the real story about Elizabeth Fox-Genovese nor the remarkable life he and Betsey shared together. More than anything it is a love story.

In *Miss Betsey: A Memoir of Marriage*, Gene chronicles their professional and political collaborations as well as their extraordinary evolutions as a couple. Long a Marxist and nonbeliever, Betsey converted to Catholicism with Gene renouncing communism and returning to the Church soon thereafter. While her writings and her conversion won her a national audience, they also subjected her to bitter and increasingly vicious hostility.

Betsey and Gene are two of the most influential historians of the past forty years. The controversies that shaped their lives—involving communism, religion, feminism, and partisan politics—were those that shaped late-twentieth-century intellectual life in general.

As a grateful but still grieving widower, Gene confesses that “time does not heal all things,” but he also affirms that it was on the day of his “improbable blind date” with Elizabeth Fox that “the Holy Ghost pronounced my sinful soul worth saving.”

WHAT THEY’RE SAYING

“A paean of love for a remarkable woman.”—Natalie Zemon Davis, author of *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives*

“In this beautifully written memoir of a marriage, Eugene Genovese captures his beloved wife for all those who knew her and, as well, those who did not but here discover her for the first time.”—Jean Bethke Elshtain, author of *Sovereignty: God, State, and Self*

Eugene D. Genovese is the author of the groundbreaking classic *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* as well as many other books. Several were coauthored with his late wife, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, including *The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slaveholders’ Worldview* and *Slavery in White and Black: Class and Race in the Southern Slaveholders’ New World Order*.

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