



News Release
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Berkeley, California

Contact: Alan Bern
Community Relations Librarian
510-981-6107

**YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT SUVANTO BY MAILE CHAPMAN
A BRILLIANT AND UNNERVING DEBUT NOVEL ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUSLY ILL
FEMALE PATIENTS AT A REMOTE HOSPITAL IN FINLAND**

The meticulously researched novel that took ten years in the making

Berkeley Public Library is thrilled to host a reading and slide presentation by Maile Chapman of her first novel, *YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT SUVANTO*. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, will be held Saturday, May 22nd, 2pm, in the Central Library (2090 Kittredge @ Shattuck, downtown Berkeley) 3rd floor Community Meeting Room and will be followed by book sales and a book signing.

In a remote, piney wood in Finland stands a convalescent hospital called Suvanto, a curving concrete example of austere Scandinavian design. It is the 1920s, and the patients, all women, seek relief from ailments real and imagined. On a late-summer day a new patient arrives—a faded, irascible former ballroom-dance instructor named Julia Dey. Sunny Taylor, the American nurse in charge of the hospital's most privileged patients, takes it upon herself to pierce the mystery of Julia's reserve. Soon, Julia's difficulty and tightly coiled anger place her at the center of the ward's tangled emotional life. As summer turns to fall, and fall to a long, dark winter, the patients hear rumors about changes being implemented at Suvanto by an American obstetrician, Dr. Peter Weber, who is experimenting with a new surgical stitch. Their familiar routine threatened, the women are not happy (they were not happy before), and the story's escalating menace builds to a terrifying conclusion.

MAILE CHAPMAN's stories have appeared in *A Public Space*, *Literary Review*, the *Mississippi Review*, and *Post Road*. She earned her MFA from Syracuse University and is currently a Schaeffer Fellow in Fiction at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Graywolf Press announces

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BY MAILE CHAPMAN**

Publication date: April 2010 / Contact: Erin Kottke / 651-641-0077 / kottke@graywolfpress.org
Graywolf Press • 250 Third Avenue N, Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55401 • www.graywolfpress.org

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