



## The Necessary Grace to Fall Flannery OConnor Award for Short Fiction

By Gina Ochsner

University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 192 pages. Dimensions: 7.6in. x 5.0in. x 0.7in. These eleven stories take us from the Czech Republic to Alaska, from Siberia to West Texas, as they stake out territories straddling the border between life and death. In the title story the usual thoroughness of an insurance claims investigator spirals into obsession when Howard learns that a beautiful, drowned policyholder was a childhood neighbor he never knew. He is left uncentered, and his wife is convinced that he is having an affair. In How the Dead Live Karen keeps her late father's spirit trapped in her home until her newly detected pregnancy drives her thoughts outward and forward. In Unfinished Business Ciris ghost cannot forsake her previous life's routines, or the chance that even in death she might love or be loved by the living. Gina Ochsner's interests in folklore and myth often suffuse these stories of visitations, crossings, partings, and second chances. Fears and longings, for example, are often projected onto animals such as the earthbound, ice-covered swans of the Siberian tundra in Sixty-six Degrees North. Likewise, Ochsner's insights into history-burdened contemporary life in Eastern Europe and Russia also filter through. In...



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### **The Day I Forgot to Pray**

Tate Publishing. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 8.7in. x 5.8in. x 0.3in. Alexis is an ordinary five-year-old who likes to run and play in the sandbox. On her first day of Kindergarten, she makes her first school-aged friend, Elizabeth, and...

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