

AUDUBON TERRACE PRESS

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THE ORATORIO THAT WAS TIME: FOURTEEN POEMS AND THREE STORIES

by

Robert Morgan

For over half a century, Robert Morgan's finely wrought poems, stories, novels, biographies, histories, criticism, and drama have left an indelible mark on his audience. Intimately bound and perennially loyal in his literature to his Southern Appalachian roots, Morgan's significant oeuvre enlarges to embrace, beyond regional history and personal experience, our national consciousness and humanity at large.

"No contemporary American poet," notes Ron Rash of the *New York Times* bestselling and Oprah Book Club author, "can rival Morgan's range and depth of knowledge—nature, astronomy, literature, science, music, history, physics, philosophy—and few can match his range of poetic forms; however, his craft and knowledge ultimately center on the wonders of human existence, and thus are as deeply moving emotionally as they are stimulating aesthetically."

Culminating in the long, virtuosic "The Oratorio That Was Time," the poems in this volume evoke childhood and are permeated with loss; but they are also elegantly laced with the wisdom accrued from a life fruitfully lived and carefully examined. In the stories, the protagonists, tragic characters, are haunted by moral dilemmas. Spurred by a sense of duty and by the impulse to overcome their extraordinarily trying circumstances, in which they are irretrievably trapped, they are to driven to unthinkable acts.

One of America's most prolific authors, Morgan belongs to and extends the lineage traced by William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, Flannery O'Connor, and William Styron. Audubon Terrace Press, an independent press based in New York, is delighted to publish his newest book, with a foreword by Helena María Viramontes.

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