

# UP FRONT

By The Editors  
Published: May 29, 2005

This week Toni Bentley makes her first appearance on our cover with her review of Lyndall Gordon's "Vindication: A Life of Mary Wollstonecraft." The subject is of longstanding interest to Bentley. At 13, she began collecting biographies of "incredible" women: "Nin, Sand, Woolf, Colette. I always read their books, but I was interested in their lives," she said in a telephone interview. "I wouldn't have known how to live my life if these women hadn't done it before me." She recalls reading, and heavily underlining, Emily Sunstein's biography of Wollstonecraft, "A Different Face," a couple of years later.

- FACEBOOK
- TWITTER
- GOOGLE+
- EMAIL
- SHARE
- PRINT
- REPRINTS



Bentley's own history is remarkable. Raised in "an academic family that thought highly of intellectual things," she developed a passion for dance, ultimately landing a coveted place in George Balanchine's New York City Ballet. In 1982, when she was just 21, her book "Winter Season: A Dancer's Journal" was published to wide acclaim. When a hip injury forced her off the stage, she found a new career as a writer. She has since been the co-author of Suzanne Farrell's autobiography and has written a book about the costume designer Barbara Karinska as well as a scholarly study of striptease, centered on four women who danced Salome. Bentley's most recent book, "The Surrender: An Erotic Memoir," was one of the Book Review's 100 Notable Books of 2004. The Editors

## On the Web

Audio: Richard Wilbur reads selections from "Collected Poems, 1943-2004."

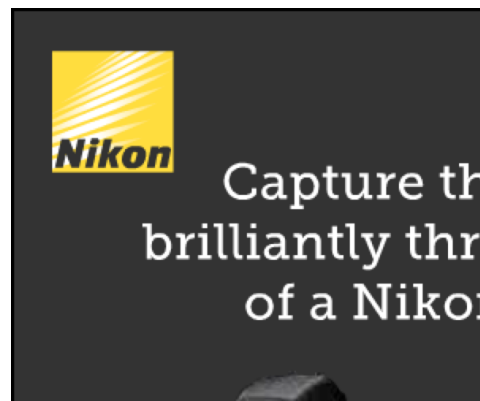
First Chapters: Excerpts from "Vindication," by Lyndall Gordon; "No god but God," by Reza Aslan; and other books.

Forums: Respond to a review, discuss literary topics or join a monthly Reading Group.

Books Update E-mail: Receive a selective overview of new book reviews and features every Friday.

nytimes.com/books

Photo (Photograph by Stathis Orphanos)



MOST EMAILED

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

We don't have any personalized recommendations for you at this time. Please try again later.

Log in to discover more articles based on what you've read.



Log In

Register Now

What's This? | Don't Show

## ELSEWHERE ON NYTIMES.COM

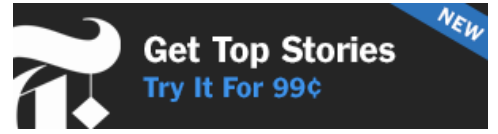


### Forgoing sunrise for sunset on Maui's volcano

To campuses without a compass  
10 ideas for a smoother road trip

## Drawing (Drawing by Lou Beach)

[FACEBOOK](#)   [TWITTER](#)   [GOOGLE+](#)   [EMAIL](#)   [SHARE](#)



Ads by Google

[what's this?](#)

### **Canadian Rockies By Train**

Canadian Rockies Train Packages.

See Canada by Train this Summer.

[www.travelalberta.us/Train](http://www.travelalberta.us/Train)