

Felt A Novel by Mark Blagrave

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To what emotional extremes will you go to recover lost memories, or surrender to ones that are impossible to erase?

Felt is a novel about remembrance — what memories we cannot forget and what memories we lose — and the lengths to which we go to recover the forgotten and erase the unforgettable.

Matthew, a Toronto museum curator, returns home to New Brunswick to his mother who is wrestling with the challenges of living alone at age ninety-six. As mother and son face the prognosis of her developing Alzheimer's disease, the pair begin to unfold a family saga marked by ingenuity, creativity, and resilience. Matthew pieces together the untold story, spanning three generations and two World Wars, of a Norwegian sardine-packer — his grandmother — who founded a handicraft empire in Loyalist territory. At the same time, his mother rearranges her past, her memory spinning and embroidering family history. A heart-rending and powerful story of three generations of a family in a small Maritime town in which shared and contested memories are woven, unraveled, and rewoven.

The Author

Mark Blagrave was born and raised in Ontario, and has lived in New Brunswick most of his life. His first novel, *Silver Salts*, was shortlisted for the 2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Novel and his novel *Lay Figures* was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award. He now lives in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Praise for previous works:

Salt in the Wounds

"Blagrave doesn't hit readers over the head with his salt metaphors and insights; in fact, he sprinkles to perfect taste."

—Atlantic Books Today

Lay Figures

"Lay Figures is a richly imagined novel set in Depression era Saint John where the vivid world of artists comes to life, their loves and losses shaping what they create."

—Anne Simpson, author of *Speechless*



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