Aracoeli

By Elsa Morante

Open Letter. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Aracoeli, Elsa Morante, Aracoeli--Elsa Morante's final novel--is the story of an aging man's attempt to recover the past and get his life on track in the process. The Aracoeli of the title is the narrator's deceased mother, who grew up in a small Spanish town before marrying an upper-class Italian navy ensign. The idyllic years she spends with her only son--Manuel, the narrator of the novel--are shattered when she contracts an incurable disease (probably syphilis) and becomes a nymphomaniac. Now, at the age of 43, Manuel, an unattractive, self-loathing, recovering drug addict who works a dead-end job at a small publishing house, decides to travel to her hometown in Spain in order to look for her. Filled with dreams and remembrances the novel creates a Seboldian landscape of memory out of this painful journey, painting a portrait that is both touching and bleak. Appearing here for the first time in paperback-- the hardcover was published in 1984--Aracoeli is an important, and long-neglected, work in Morante's oeuvre. For about two months now I have had a temporary job with a little publishing firm, where I am engaged in translating or in reading texts under...

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