



## American Genius: A Comedy (Paperback)

By Lynne Tillman

COUNTERPOINT, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Lynne Tillman's previous novels have won her both popular approval and critical praise from such literary heavyweights as Edmund White and Colm Toibin. With *American Genius*, her first novel since 1998's *No Lease on Life*, she shows what might happen if Jane Austen were writing in 21st-century America. Employing her trademark crystalline prose and intricate, hypnotic sentences, Tillman fashions a microcosm of American democracy: a scholarly colony functioning like Melville's *Pequod*. In this otherworld, competing values -- rationality and irrationality, generosity and selfishness, love and lust, shame and honor -- collide through a witty narrative, cycling through such disparate tropes as skin disease, chair design, and Manifest Destiny. All this is folded into the narrator's memories and emotional life, culminating in a seance that may offer escape and transcendence -- or perhaps nothing. Grand and minute, elegiac and hilarious, Lynne Tillman expands the possibilities of the American novel in this dazzling read.



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