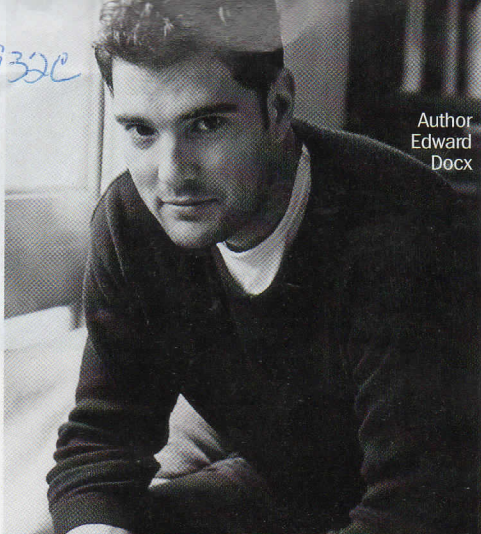


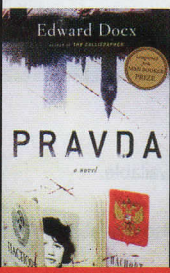
0932C

461



Author Edward Docx

marie claire radar



PAGE-TURNERS >>>

TWO-MINUTE DATE >>

Hot Brit author Edward Docx has his stateside debut

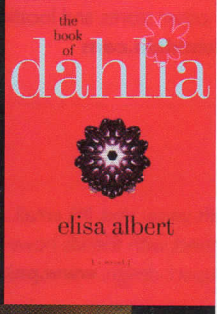
“I used to go out a lot,” explains Edward Docx in his bewitching British accent. “The problem with partying is you don’t get an awful lot of work done. Look at Paris Hilton.” Actually, we’d rather ogle Docx’s dashing author photo on the back of his second, highly acclaimed novel, *Pravda*.

JUST OUT IN THE STATES and long-listed for last year’s Man Booker Prize in the U.K., the witty tale centers on cynical 32-year-old twins, who, upon burying their mother, unearth some rattling secrets about their Anglo-Russian family. The story was inspired by Docx’s own mysterious history, involving a shocking deathbed confession by his Indian grandmother, who revealed that she was not related at all—and that the man his mother thought was her father was actually her half-brother. “When my mom found out that her real mother was Russian, it had a huge impact on me,” says the 35-year-old Londoner.

“When my mom found out that her real mother was Russian, it had a huge impact on me.”

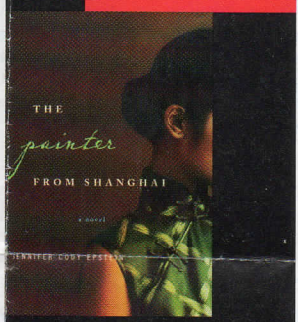
INDEED, *PRAVDA* DETAILS how relatives can yank the rug out from under you, but it’s hardly all autobiographical. “As a novelist, you’re always using your experience to create your fiction,” Docx says. “But my father’s not a bisexual madman who lives in Paris, and my friends don’t all shoot up heroin.” How about the commitment-phobes in his books—is there any of Docx in them? “It’s difficult to be a man,” he admits. “Go anywhere, and you encounter some new, amazing, funny, thoughtful, mischievous woman.” For the record, the darkly handsome, Bob Dylan-quoting Docx has been married a year to the equally gorgeous blonde Emma.

MOVIE-STAR LOOKS ASIDE, Docx is thankful to be hunkering down with his next novel, where “this time I’m going to reveal everything about my dad,” he jokes. “Writers are lucky. It’s not like being an actor, where your face is everywhere. I would hate that.” Pity. We wouldn’t. —Lori Fradkin



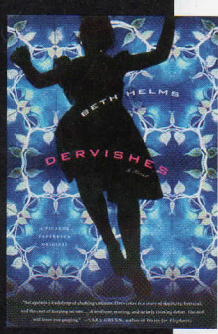
THE BOOK OF DAHLIA

BY ELISA ALBERT (Free Press) The quarterlife crisis? We know it well. At 29, slacker Dahlia Finger hasn’t done much with her life—her hobby is watching the same DVDs over and over while stoned. Not the stuff of a future CEO. So when she is diagnosed with a brain tumor, Dahlia turns her film-lover’s eye on her own story—hitting rewind and revisiting those who wronged her, from her absent mother to her brother-turned-rabbi. But this is no tearjerker. Instead, Elisa Albert creates an antihero whose spunky candor reminds us that attitude—even a bad one—is everything. —Eileen Conlan



THE PAINTER FROM SHANGHAI

BY JENNIFER CODY EPSTEIN (Norton) An orphan is sold to a brothel by her uncle in prewar China, where she becomes a prostitute, then a concubine, and finally one of the most famous and controversial female artists of her day... This picaresque Shanghai-to-Paris tale delves into the imaginary psyche of the real turn-of-the-century artist Pan Yuliang, who made terribly romantic sacrifices for her art. Epstein’s harrowing (and historically accurate) details show that through darkness comes greatness. —E.C.



DERVISHES

BY BETH HELMS (Picador) Imagine you were a 12-year-old American girl forced to move to Turkey with your unhappily married parents. Your diplomat pop is never around, and your in-a-funk mom is as foreign to you as your new home. Canada and her mother, Grace, are in similar turmoil: Grace is forced to socialize with a bunch of wealthy expats (leading to an affair), while Canada navigates tricky preteen friendships (leading to a betrayal). If only the two were there for each other. A lush novel with a climax that is both inevitable and full of surprises. —Megan Frampton >>

Epstein’s harrowing, historically accurate details show that through darkness comes greatness.