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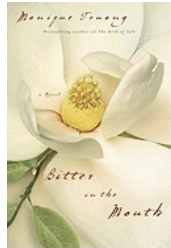
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★ **Bitter in the Mouth**

Monique Truong, Random, \$25 (288p) ISBN 978-1-4000-6908-8



Linda Hammerick has a special yet burdensome gift--she experiences words as tastes. Linda's boyfriends' names, for example, remind her of orange sherbet and parsnips; her own name is mint-flavored. Depending on the speaker, listening, for Linda, can be delicious or distasteful. In the first part of the book, Linda interacts with her family: she dances with her eccentric uncle Baby Harper, whose sing-song voice limits her "tasting his words"; she faced off with her acerbic grandmother, Iris; deals with her adored father, Thomas, and her unsympathetic mother, Deanne, whose infatuation with a neighborhood boy leaves Linda vulnerable to his predatory advances. Woven into Linda's story is the history of her home state, North Carolina—slaveholding days, the first airplane flight, and local Indian lore. But when a sudden tragedy brings Linda back home from New York City, she finds answers to a life that has been made up of half-finished sentences, as the secret of her origins and the clandestine histories of those around her are revealed one by one. Truong's (*Book of Salt*) mesmerizing prose beautifully captures Linda's taste-saturated world, and her portrait of a broken family's secretive pockets and genuine moments of connection is affecting. (Aug)

Reviewed on: 06/21/2010

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Mattel was ordered to pay rival MGA Entertainment over ownership of the Bratz fashion doll line. The legal battle has been ongoing since 2004.

[The 'American Psycho' New York Map](#)

NY Times with an interactive map of the city as experienced by Patrick Bateman.

['Hunger Games' Gets Help from Soderbergh](#)

The director is helping out on some second unit shooting.

[Dostoyevsky Film Taking Shape](#)

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Beyond Her Book

Barbara Vey

Candace Havens Elected President of the Television Critics Association

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ShelfTalker

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Rose Fox

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LEGO Harry Potter: Building the Magical World	Children's Picture Book
Hunger Games	Children's Series & Tie-ins
A Dance with Dragons: A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 5	Hardcover Fiction
A Stolen Life	Hardcover Nonfiction
The Confession	Mass Market Paper
The Help	Trade Paper