Grace Paleys Life Stories: A Literary Biography

Judith Arcana

magazine Salon. Paley's stories explored the everyday lives of her contemporaries, focusing most attentively.

Grace Paley's Life Stories: A Literary Biography by Judith Arcana provides biographical, professional information, and can be found on her website as can information about Grace Paley's Life Stories: A Literary Biography.


Grace Paley was a short story writer, poet, pacifist, political activist, and professor. She was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for Fiction, the Edith Wharton Award, the Rea Award for the Short Story, the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, and... More about Grace Paley.

I saw my ex-husband in the street. I was sitting on the steps of the new library. Hello, my life, I said. We had once been married for twenty-seven years, so I felt justified. He said, What? What life? No life of mine. Either has enough character for a whole life, which as it turns out is really not such a long time. You couldn’t exhaust either man’s qualities or get under the rock of his reasons in one short life. Just this morning I looked out the window to watch the street for a while and saw that the little sycamores the city had dreamily planted a couple of years before the kids were born had come that day to the prime of their lives. Well! Grace Paley’s “Wants” is one of my all-time favorite stories, and I stumbled upon it again last week while I was packing...