

Alice Sebold

Tuesday, November 18, 8 pm, 2003
Zellerbach Hall

Tonight's talk by Alice Sebold will last one hour
and be followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer session.
There will be no intermission.

Following tonight's talk, Alice Sebold will be signing copies
of her books on the Mezzanine lobby level.

Alice Sebold's appearance has been made possible, in part, by the Friends of Cal Performances.

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and the California Arts Council, a state agency.

Alice Sebold is the author of the memoir *Lucky*, which recounts her rape at the age of 18 and the court trial that followed it, as well as the best-selling novel *The Lovely Bones*.

Sebold has been teaching and lecturing since 1984 in a variety of guises. She is deeply interested in issues of violence and family and how we find hope in the modern world. She is a fanatic about Henry James and loves to talk about the process of writing itself, the differences between memoir and fiction, and the idea of working among the arts (i.e. not defining yourself solely by one discipline) in order to make art of any kind. Her fantasy audience would include an auditorium of dogs and cats accompanied by their humans, as animals are one of the true comforts available to us on a daily basis. She wants us all to go to more museums and read more modern poetry, and to enjoy them as opposed to thinking of them as educational "shoulds."

Alice Sebold was born in Madison, Wisconsin. Her family moved to the suburbs northwest of Philadelphia when she was still in single digits and she spent the remainder of her childhood there. She attended Syracuse University, University of Houston, and later, she returned to school in her 30s and received an MFA from University of California, Irvine.

In the years between her one-year stint in Houston as a grad student in poetry and the publication of her first book when she was 36, she lived and worked in New York in a variety of part-time jobs. Her favorite, by far, was as a teacher of composition at Hunter College. Sebold credits the returning women students there with inspiring her to go back to school herself.