

OBSERVER A ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

BOOK Author's intents often murky in this remarkable family saga



VICTORIA DIAZ

The Martyring By Thomas Sullivan (Forge, \$22.95)

At the heart of this novel by Lathrup Village author Thomas Sullivan lies a strange family of German ancestry. As the story unfolds, we learn that this family can trace its roots as far back as the Dark Ages...

America. At about the same time, his Uncle Detlef arrives at the Florida compound...

Though the plan seems reasonable enough on the surface, things eventually begin to go awry for this little band brought together by death...

The contemporary, American branch of the family tree is made up of the white-haired, patriarchal grandmother, Gerta...

What may undercut this tale of terror most, however, is that it seems somehow overly contrived and underdeveloped at once...

It's hard to say or to know exactly what an author's intentions are when he/she sits down to write a story...

Sullivan will sign his book 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at the Birmingham Borders at 13 Mile and Southfield Road.

What many readers will find on these pages is a rather odd literary counterpane...

In addition, although Sullivan's way with words and a kind of painterly insight sometimes is arresting...

As much as we would like...

General Cinema

General Cinema listings for various theaters including Bargain Matinee, Kids, and various showtimes.

National Amusements

National Amusements listings for various theaters including Showcase Cinema and various showtimes.

Shoreline

Shoreline listings for various theaters including Michigan & Telegraph and various showtimes.

The Michigan Theater

The Michigan Theater listings for various shows including The Wedding Singer and various showtimes.

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BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc.

SOUTHFIELD

SOUTHFIELD listings for various theaters including Fay Fitzgerald signs her book and various showtimes.

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS)

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS) listings for various theaters including Harpebeat performs 2 p.m. Sunday.

BARNES & NOBLE (BLOOMFIELD HILLS)

BARNES & NOBLE (BLOOMFIELD HILLS) listings for various theaters including Irish Blarney, 11 a.m. Wednesday.

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS)

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS) listings for various theaters including Avon Players present Irish poetry.

BORDERS (DEARBORN)

BORDERS (DEARBORN) listings for various theaters including Raymond Dorn discusses his new book.

SHAMAN DRUM

SHAMAN DRUM listings for various theaters including Laura Blakeney presents program on yoga.

ELIZABETH BENTLEY GALLERY

ELIZABETH BENTLEY GALLERY listings for various theaters including Reception and book signing for Michigan Children's Book Authors.

BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, WOODWARD)

BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, WOODWARD) listings for various theaters including Writer's workshop, 5 p.m. Sunday.

Opera production spare but charming

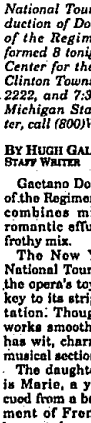
The New York City Opera National Touring Company production of Donizetti's "Daughter of the Regiment" will be performed 8 tonight at the Macomber Center for the Performing Arts.

daughter (and chief cook and bottle washer). She falls in a love with a young peasant who proves his love for her by joining the regiment.

Musically Donizetti has fun combining martial music with swooping, romantic song. The singers on Thursday's opening performance at the University of Michigan were both fine singers and good actors.

The daughter of the regiment is Marie, a young woman who is married to a lieutenant by a regiment of French soldiers, who have taken her in as their

director Matthew Latta finds a balance between the romance and the comedy, including some slapstick. But this is not a lush production and some of the contrasts and vigor of a larger production are missing.



THE MACOMBER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS