

TRIPTYCH

TRIPTYCH paints portraits of two sets of mothers and daughters: the first, caught up in the brutalities of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, and the second, in 1980s Chicago, dealing with the lingering effects of the Revolution and trail of secrets left behind.

Budapest, 1956. A national uprising against Soviet occupiers and their reign of terror is underway. Eleven-year-old Evike and her firebrand mother steal deep into battle zones in support of civilian freedom fighters, armed only with primitive weapons and desperate courage, against the heavy artillery of trained Russian troops. Taken in for interrogation by the secret police, Evike spins a story to deflect attention from her mother's revolutionary activities. This story will irrevocably alter lives and reach its tentacles, 30 years later, into the life of Ildiko Palmay.

Chicago, 1986. Ildiko, 37, a librarian and ESL teacher, is the American-born daughter of Hungarian refugees. Unsettled by her life and her romantic failures, she finds herself drawn back to her roots, first to the Hungarian neighborhood of her youth in Chicago—and eventually to the Russian-occupied city of Budapest. Along the way, she meets a magnetic man who may not be what he seems, uncovers a trail of secrets and betrayals forged in the uprising, and discovers the shocking truth about her mother's death.