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***Unknown Caller* Explores the Afterlife of a Failed Marriage**  
*LSU Press's Yellow Shoe Fiction Series Welcomes Debra Spark*

“Intricate, Pinteresque, and wholly compelling, Debra Spark's new novel spans countries and decades, messes with time, and continues to upend everything you thought you knew about the characters. It's masterful and I devoured it.”—Lily King, author of *Euphoria*

**Baton Rouge**—In 2005, Joel Pearlman waits at Logan Airport with a sign reading Idzia: the name of the teenage daughter he's never met. In 1986, Liesel Pearlman weeps on the couch with a negative pregnancy test in her hand. Debra Spark's fourth novel, ***Unknown Caller***, which LSU Press will publish in April 2016, weaves together the stories of a brief, failed marriage and its complicated aftermath.

Leaping effortlessly across decades and continents, the novel follows Liesel, Joel, and Idzia over thirty years, through disappointments, frustrations, and misunderstandings. At different times, each of these characters is the unknown caller of the title: reaching out for help or simply for empathy, uncertain of the reception they will find. Although tied by history and blood, the characters struggle to find meaningful connections with each other.

Spark's candid, intricate novel highlights the near-impossibility of truly knowing another person, the pain in failing relationships, and the joy in successful ones.

**Debra Spark** is author of *Coconuts for the Saint*, *The Ghost of Bridgetown*, *Good for the Jews*, *The Pretty Girl*, and *Curious Attractions: Essays on Fiction Writing*. She is a professor at Colby College and teaches in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. She lives with her husband and son in North Yarmouth, Maine.

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