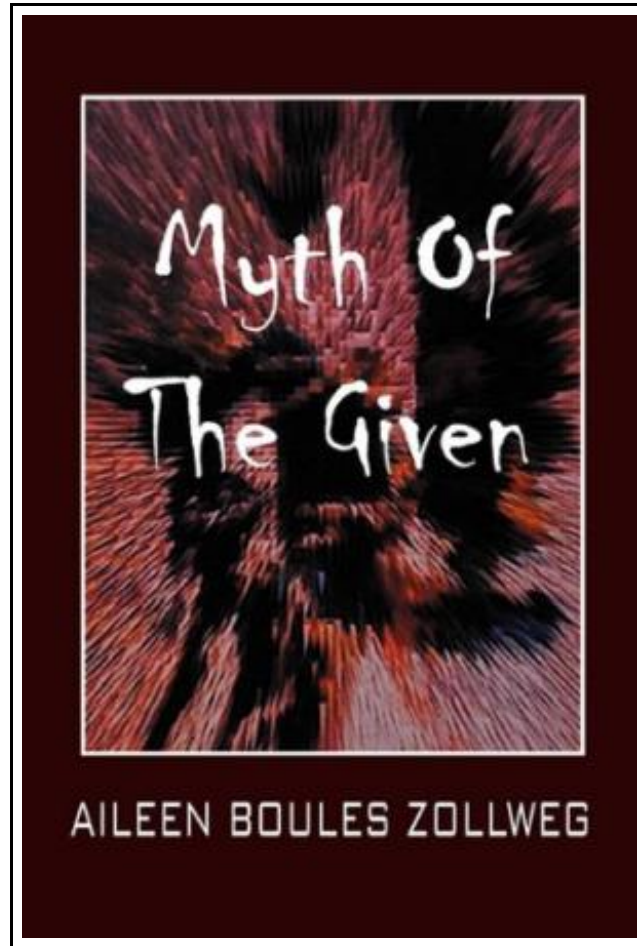


## Myth of the Given



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## MYTH OF THE GIVEN



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Outskirts Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 292 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.7in. Although terrified by what she must do, thirteen year old Billie Leclair uses her wits and prestigious memory to save her mother and sister from starvation. MYTH OF THE GIVEN is the eventful story of Billie and her younger sister, Cathy, as they grow from precocious children to pretty teen-agers during the 1930 depression. This novel depicts life during a desperate times when many in the United States lost their jobs, their homes, their hope. A time when unemployment reached twenty-five percent. A time when suicides increased by fifty percent. The young sisters struggle to cope with their mothers strict fundamentalist religion and their fathers alcoholism. Like other children in their neighborhood, they play games with their friends, improvise dramas for their movie star paper dolls, listen to Little Orphan Annie on the radio, and eavesdrop on adult conversations. At school students are disciplined with a wooden paddle. Teachers are strict. Yet school is a refuge from the girls turbulent home life. Billie is kidnapped. Cathy survives diphtheria, often fatal before vaccinations against it became common. The novel begins like this: When the back door flew open the two little girls looked up from their breakfast of fried eggs and bacon. A gust of cold wind accompanied Mrs. Athenas into the kitchen. Her stylish bob, blown into a spiky mass of black hair, flared out around her pale face. Her black eyes wide with remembered fear. She sat down across from the girls at the square wooden table covered with a faded blue and white oilcloth. She inhaled the warm air perfumed with coffee, bacon and fresh baked jelly roll, letting it out in a long sigh. Their neighbor, Mrs. Athenas automobile had been forced off the...



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