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## BOOK REVIEWS

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### *Staff Reviews*

***Cheating Death***, a novel by Judith C. Reveal. 213 pages. Cambridge Books (2008). \$16.95. Plagiarism, blackmail, illegitimate children, stormy nights, sweetheart deals, and a number of murders keep *Cheating Death* moving along at a brisk pace. This is Judy Reveal's first mystery novel, and she proves to be an adept storyteller. The characters are memorable and, along with their complicated relationships, described with artful economy. The author is from Greensboro, MD, and is clearly on familiar turf as she weaves her intriguing plot. Reveal's imagery and astute ear for dialogue further enhance this story of murder and suspense, Eastern Shore-style.

***New Lines from the Old Line State, An Anthology of Maryland Writers***, edited by Allyson E. Peltier. 227 pages. Maryland Writers' Association (2008). \$15.95. Editor Allyson E. Peltier collected submissions from Maryland Writers' Association members to assemble the association's first anthology, an eclectic mix of fiction, memoir, and poetry. While *New Lines* does not purport to be representative of all of Maryland's great number of writers, it does contain a diverse selection of work, from 29 authors, that should appeal to many readers. Whether the reader is seeking strong imagery, good storytelling, or a gripping mystery, there is something in these pages to please a variety of interests. The anthology contains fourteen poems, seven essays, and fifteen short stories. We salute the Maryland Writers' Association for their recognition of these authors, both new and established.

***On the Mason-Dixon Line, An Anthology of Contemporary Delaware Writers***, edited by Billie Travalini and Felda Brown. 279 pages. University of Delaware Press (2008). \$37.50. With only 90 miles of coastline, Delaware may be small but it is mighty when it comes to having its share of fine writers. The editors are award-winning poet Billie Travalini and seven-time Delaware Poet Laureate Felda Brown. As they write in the Introduction, "No collection of writing can define a people or place," but they have assembled 52 stories, essays, and poems representing Delaware's finest contemporary writers. The 46 authors include the late W.D. Snodgrass, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, and others with national reputations. Much of the work was previously published, such as Maribeth Fischer's Pushcart Prize-winning essay "Stillborn." This wide-ranging and lively collection is well worth a look.