

THE APOLOGY

By Eve Ensler

128 pp. Bloomsbury Publishing. 2019.

By his own admission, Arthur Ensler was a beast. I "blame[d] you for what I was doing" (84). I "wanted you to fail" (93). I "had to kill what I had already destroyed" (70). His prey? His five-year-old daughter Eve. Sixty years hence, in *The Apology*, Eve pens his confession in absentia (he died in 1987). There was no other apology. As mentioned, Arthur Ensler was a beast, intending to cause his child to "doubt [her] experience, . . . perceptions, and . . . worth" (84). "The more reliable and respected you became, the more possibility there was that you would be a trustworthy witness" (93). Not only is Eve Ensler a trustworthy witness, she became, against all odds, an award winning playwright, performer, author, and [activist](#). Leading the pantheon of #MeToo voices, Eve Ensler documents the corrosive effects of the abuse of power, the calculated and sadistic sleights of hand to discredit and blame the victim and to recruit allies (in this case, Mrs. Ensler). *The Apology* is a call to action for women to "keep fighting until our daughters are equal, free, and safe [and] for men who have hurt women . . . to do your own deep and thorough accounting, reckoning, apologizing so that we can finally transform and end this violence" (115). Recently, Eve Ensler dropped her name. Her new name is V. As in victory. —Lisa Thaler, 7 February 2021