



photo by Larry Aaron

April Miller's *Reflections In An Old Mirror*

by Larry G. Aaron

Ensclosed in her 19th-century Chatham home, Brightwood, April Miller ponders the past. Dressed in its Antebellum and Victorian décor—a New Orleans chandelier, an 1874 piano once belonging to the Langhorne family, and especially an enormous mirror covering the back wall of the front foyer—Brightwood creates the perfect ambience for Miller's latest book, *Reflections in an Old Mirror*.

In *Reflections*, Miller has captured humorous happenings that have lingered in her mind and stitched them together, making them into stories, often poignant and subtle, that reflect not just the distant past, but the immediate past. Their importance is that these happenings have made an impression that other ordinary events haven't.

Each vignette reflects Southern culture in some way. They are

everyday events that, on the surface, few might find meaning or joy in—or humor for that matter. But that makes her newest book different and welcomed, for we all have experiences. Put simply, April Miller sees beyond the event. She sees the story of how events affect people, including herself, and how we, and others, react to things around us.

Miller's insight into character and people comes naturally. Her parents were avid readers, and writing has been her interest since childhood. Over the years she has written other books—*Shelton County*, about her Pittsylvania County ancestors, *The Green Sea*, about her husband's family, and *My Table at Brightwood*, a cookbook.

Like her home, April Miller exemplifies elegant Southern culture, which, she says is "being lost due to political correctness

and the obliteration of ancient landmarks around us." She believes that Southern culture is worth preserving, and in *Reflections In An Old Mirror* Miller releases her Southern charm and melds it into captivating stories that linger long after the her book is closed.

Stories such as "Moonshine," "Mourning Violet," "The Mona Lisa Sign," "Tombstone," and "Agnes Swimming" come alive by touching the humanity we all share—a humanity clearly rooted in our past. As we read, we see ourselves in similar situations and feel the emotions of her moments.

Miller's book signings are scheduled for *News and Novels in Danville* on Saturday, November 25, from 1pm-3pm and Thursday, November 30, at *Chatham Books* from 4:30—6 pm and *Shadetree Rare Books in Chatham* from 7-8 pm. Her books are also available at the *Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History*.

"Reflections in an Old Mirror" is available from:
April Miller
Brightwood
501 Marilla Lane
Chatham, VA 24531

Book Price: \$18.00
Padded Shipping: \$ 3.00

Make checks payable to: April Miller



Susan Worley/Star-Tribune

April Miller's new book "Reflections In An Old Mirror" captures images of country churches, old Cadillacs, roaming backroads, blue tick hounds, Christmas memories, faded pictures, haunted houses, moonshine and old mysteries.

Book brims with delightful musings

By **SUSAN WORLEY**
Star-Tribune Staff Writer

Country churches, old Cadillacs, roaming backroads, blue tick hounds, Christmas memories, faded pictures, haunted houses, moonshine and old mysteries all lurk in the pages of April Miller's new book *Reflections In An Old Mirror*.

Miller, who lives in Chatham, stepped away from her genealogical style in previously published *Shelton*

County and the meticulous research and detail of her cookbook *My Table at Brightwood* to pen what she calls, "something lighter."

"Giving my books titles has always plagued me," she said. "Harry (her husband) suggested *Fond Memories*, but it wasn't right. All my memories certainly aren't fond.

"Although some of my memories are bittersweet, I have books on the shelves, dogs on

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