

UNRAVELLING, by Elizabeth Graver (Hyperion; \$22.95). Aimee Slater is the spirited and deep-feeling narrator of Graver's historical novel, which is set among the farms and mill towns of nineteenth-century New England. At fifteen, ashamed of her newfound sexual hunger, she runs away to Lowell, Massachusetts, to seek redemption and independence as a weaver. A year later, she returns home in disgrace. The subsequent story of how she makes a life on her own terms while struggling to become reconciled with her family is a pleasure, quiet and increasingly gripping. In images as simple and specific as that of Aimee's blind rabbit sniffing its salt lick, Graver endows the habits of coping with a profound dignity.