



## **The Telling Room: A Tale of Love, Betrayal, Revenge, and the World's Greatest Piece of Cheese**



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*Michael Paterniti*

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The Telling Room "NEW YORK TIMES" BESTSELLER In the picturesque village of Guzman, Spain, in a cave dug into a hillside on the edge of town, an ancient door leads to a cramped limestone chamber known as "the telling room." Containing nothing but a wooden table and two benches, this is where villagers have gathered for centuries to share their stories and secrets--usually accompanied by copious amounts of wine. It... Full description

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368 pages

Review

Advance praise for "The Telling Room"

"Elegant, strange, funny, and insightful, "The Telling Room" is a marvelous tale and a joyful read, a trip into a world peopled by some of the most remarkable characters--and, yes, cheese--in memory."--Susan Orlean, author of "The Orchid Thief"

"The list of writers I would read even if they were to write about a piece of cheese has always been short, but it includes Michael Paterniti. He has proved here that if you love something enough and pay a passionate enough attention to it, the whole world can become present in it. That's true of both the cheese and the book."--John Jeremiah Sullivan, author of "Pulphed"

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"An amazing achievement, "The Telling Room" is an inspired, masterly epic that expands and refigures the parameters of the storyteller's art."--Wells Tower, author of "Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned"

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"A gorgeous and impassioned monument to the art and mystery of storytelling, "The Telling Room" is rich, funny, humane, devastating, and beautiful. It made me want to applaud, it made me want to cry, it made me want to move to Spain. Michael Paterniti is a genius."--Elizabeth Gilbert, author of "Eat, Pray, Love"

"Michael Paterniti is one of the best living practitioners of the art of literary journalism, able to fully elucidate and humanize the everyday and the epic. In his hands, every subject, every moment of personal or global upheaval, is treated with the same curiosity, respect, empathy, and clear-eyed wisdom."--Dave Eggers, author of "A Hologram for the King"

"[The] best book of narrative nonfiction I've read in ages."--Michael Pollan

"Rich and shaggy, full of Castilian-size detours, ["The Telling Room"] is a travelogue, food adventure, and personal memoir rolled into one hugely likable book. . . . Paterniti proves that the hardest quarry as a journalist is not the extraordinary, but the everyday."--"The Boston Globe"

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"Breathtakingly cinematic . . . reads like Bill Buford's "Heat, " conveying the passions of both author and subject, but with David Foster Wallace's gift for digression."--"The Tampa Bay Times"

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"Unforgettable . . . a must-read for all who think of Spain as magical, who consider cheese as the ultimate gift of love, who love stories of betrayal, despair, revenge and redemption."--Steven Jenkins, author of "Cheese Primer, The Wall Street Journal"

"Few writers can write about the taste of food with Paterniti's vibrancy and precision. . . . [He] is a master of finding and telling great stories (the finding, for most writers, often being as difficult as the telling) that appear to be about something small, such as cheese, but are actually about something far larger--in this case, the whole of human existence. . . . As much as "The Telling Room" is about a Spaniard's quest to create a cheese that embodies all the love and pain and joy he's ever known, it's also the story of a writer's quest to channel that obsession into the perfect story."--"Esquire"

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Michael Paterniti is the "New York Times" bestselling author of "Driving Mr. Albert: A Trip Across America with Einstein's Brain." His writing has appeared in many publications, including "The New York Times Magazine, National Geographic, Harper's, Outside, Esquire, "and "GQ, "where he works as a correspondent. Paterniti has been nominated eight times for the National Magazine Award, and is the recipient of a NEA grant and two MacDowell Fellowships. He is the co-founder of a children's storytelling center in Portland, Maine, where he lives with his wife and their three children. "From the Hardcover edition.""

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