

**Kaschock, Kirsten. *Sleight*. Coffee House, dist. by Consortium. Oct. 2011. c.330p. ISBN 9781566892759. pap. \$16. F**

Poet and choreographer Kaschock imagines an art form called "sleight" in this inventive debut novel. The story stars sisters Clef and Lark Scrye, whose lives revolve around sleight composition and performance, and culminates in one ultimate, communal sleight performance, which is based on Lark's experiences with pain but shaped by the performers' reactions to a shocking local tragedy. Kaschock's work stands out for the originality of its concepts, narrative structure, and, particularly, language, as the author redefines words in relation to her art and boldly breaks from traditional grammatical constructions. Kaschock's intimate knowledge of dance is an asset, helping her bring the sleight performers vividly to life. **VERDICT** Not for the general reader, *Sleight* is to the traditional fiction narrative what alternative music is to mainstream pop. Readers who enjoy the challenge of an innovative, unconventional style will take pleasure in this selection.—**Catherine Tingelstad, Pitt Community Coll. Lib., Greenville, NC**