



Legends of the Slow Explosion

Baron Wormser

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ELEVEN MODERN LIVES



BARON WORMSER

“Baron Wormser puts lives on paper in a way I’ve never seen before. . . . Here he is, as Miles Davis exhaling an aching, grief-stricken riff or Willem de Kooning discovering America or, one summer afternoon walking down Broadway, Hannah Arendt. Some of these biographical essays read like a soliloquy, others like a scene from a film in which the setting is a mind rendered like a strange yet familiar landscape. **There are so many insights about the human imagination that I was left wondering what I’ve been doing all my life. So much has escaped me.**”

— DEBORAH BAKER, AUTHOR OF *THE CONVERT: A TALE OF EXILE AND EXTREMISM*

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Contact Marie Gauthier,
mgauthier@tupelopress.org
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orders@tupelopress.org

BARON WORMSER is the author of fifteen books, including the novel *Tom o’ Vietnam* and the memoir *The Road Washes Out in Spring*. He has been poet laureate of the state of Maine (2000–2005) and received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He offers workshops throughout the United States, teaches in Fairfield University’s MFA Program, and lives with his wife Janet in Montpelier, Vermont.

“What a trove of delightful and provocative biographical studies. I was reminded, of course, of John Aubrey and his *Brief Lives*. Wormser writes about an eclectic range of major figures, each of whom lived under the ‘annihilating strength of the shadow’ of nuclear war. . . . They made their lives into works of art, and ‘what goes into the making is boundless.’”

— FROM JAY PARINI, AUTHOR OF *EMPIRE OF SELF: A LIFE OF GORE VIDAL*