



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

*Michael Paterniti*

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**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

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In the picturesque village of Guzmán, 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 was here, in the summer of 2000, that Michael Paterniti found himself listening to a larger-than-life Spanish cheesemaker named Ambrosio Molinos de las Heras as he spun an odd and compelling tale about a piece of cheese. An unusual piece of cheese. Made from an old family recipe, Ambrosio’s cheese was reputed to be among the finest in the world, and was said to hold mystical qualities. Eating it, some claimed, conjured long-lost memories. But then, Ambrosio said, things had gone horribly wrong. . . .

By the time the two men exited the telling room that evening, Paterniti was hooked. Soon he was fully embroiled in village life, relocating his young family to Guzmán in order to chase the truth about this cheese and explore the fairy tale–like place where the villagers conversed with farm animals, lived by an ancient Castilian code of honor, and made their wine and food by hand, from the grapes growing on a nearby hill and the flocks of sheep floating over the Meseta.

What Paterniti ultimately discovers there in the highlands of Castile is nothing like the idyllic slow-food fable he first imagined. Instead, he’s sucked into the heart of an unfolding mystery, a blood feud that includes accusations of betrayal and theft, death threats, and a murder plot. As the village begins to spill its long-held secrets, Paterniti finds himself implicated in the very story he is writing.

Equal parts mystery and memoir, travelogue and history, *The Telling Room* is an astonishing work of literary nonfiction by one of our most accomplished storytellers. A moving exploration of happiness, friendship, and betrayal, *The Telling Room* introduces us to Ambrosio Molinos de las Heras, an unforgettable real-life literary hero, while also holding a mirror up to the world, fully alive to the power of stories that define and sustain us.

## **Praise for *The Telling Room***

“Captivating . . . Paterniti’s writing sings, whether he’s talking about how food activates memory, or the joys of watching his children grow.”—**NPR**

“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***

“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.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

“*The Telling Room* embodies the spirit of slow food and life.”—**Michael Pollan**

“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***

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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### **From reader reviews:**

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#### **Karen Wilson:**

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#### **Lisa Haight:**

Precisely why? Because this The Telling Room: A Tale of Love, Betrayal, Revenge, and the World's Greatest Piece of Cheese is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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