

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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## **Rivers Last Longer.**

Burgin, Richard (Author)

Nov 2010. 224 p. Texas Review, hardcover, \$26.95. (9781933896458). Texas Review, paperback, \$18.95. (9781933896465).

In his second novel (after *Ghost Quartet*, 1999), Burgin, whose short stories have garnered five Pushcart Prizes and filled six hailed collections (e.g., *The Conference on Beautiful Moments*, 2007), embeds lashing observations on the state of literature within a hold-your-breath psychological thriller. Barry and Elliot were exceptionally close friends as teenagers in Brookline, Massachusetts, and beyond. Then they have a falling out over plans to start a literary magazine not unlike *Boulevard*, which Burgin founded and edits. Years later, Barry, now wealthy after his mother's death, reconnects with gentle college professor and floundering writer Elliot, offering him the loan of a Manhattan apartment and reviving the magazine idea. But the seemingly suave Barry has a mad and evil secret life as a sexual predator. Burgin pushes his signature themes of alienation, diabolical relationships and obsession, artistic ambition gone malignant, and catastrophic delusions to new depths while simultaneously lamenting the fact that most fiction fails to tell the hard truth about the human condition. A compulsive and sardonic tale of the shadow side, where life, love, and art are savaged.

— *Donna Seaman*