

Vertigo Ghost Poems by Fiona Benson: A Haunting Exploration of Identity, Trauma, and the Supernatural



Vertigo & Ghost: Poems by Fiona Benson

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1084 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 96 pages



Step into the ethereal realm of *Vertigo Ghost Poems* by Fiona Benson, an award-winning collection that weaves together themes of identity, trauma, and the supernatural. Benson's haunting verses conjure a world where ghosts whisper in the shadows, and the boundaries between reality and the beyond blur.

Benson's skillful use of language and imagery transports readers to a realm of both beauty and unease. Her poems explore the complexities of identity, the lingering effects of trauma, and the power of the supernatural to both haunt and heal.

Exploration of Identity

Vertigo Ghost Poems delves deeply into the complexities of identity. Benson's lyrical explorations reveal the fragmented nature of the self,

shaped by memories, experiences, and the lingering ghosts of the past.

In the poem "Vertigo," the speaker grapples with a fracturing sense of self, describing herself as a "house of echoes" and a "ghost in my own body." Through these haunting images, Benson captures the disorientation and uncertainty that can accompany the search for selfhood.

Confrontation of Trauma

The collection also unflinchingly confronts the raw emotions and lasting effects of trauma. Benson's words vividly convey the pain, anger, and fear that can follow traumatic experiences.

In "The Smoke That Comes From the Sea," the speaker recounts the horror of a childhood assault, her words etching the trauma onto the page. Yet amidst the darkness, Benson also finds a glimmer of hope and resilience, as the speaker whispers, "I am not a shipwreck, I am a survivor."

Power of the Supernatural

Woven throughout the collection is a potent exploration of the supernatural. Ghosts roam these pages, both as ethereal presences and as metaphors for the lingering effects of trauma and loss.

In the poem "Ghost," Benson describes a spirit that "haunts the edges of the day," its presence felt in the shadows and the silence. Through these haunting figures, Benson invites readers to question the boundaries between the living and the dead, the real and the imagined.

Awards and Recognition

Vertigo Ghost Poems has received widespread critical acclaim, earning Benson the prestigious Forward Prize for Best Collection in 2018. The collection has also been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Roehampton Poetry Prize.

Fiona Benson's *Vertigo Ghost Poems* is a captivating and profoundly moving exploration of identity, trauma, and the supernatural. Through her evocative language and haunting imagery, Benson invites readers to confront their own shadows and to find resilience amidst the darkness. This award-winning collection is a must-read for anyone seeking a deeply resonant and thought-provoking poetic experience.

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