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Sight Map: Poems (New California Poetry)



Synopsis

In *Sight Map* Brian Teare blends the speculative poetics of the San Francisco Renaissance with a postconfessional candor to embody the "open field" tradition of such poets as Robin Blaser and Robert Duncan. Teare provides us with poems that insist on the simultaneous physical embodiment of tactile pleasure—that which is found in the textures of thought and language—as well as the action of syntax. Partly informed by an ecological imagination that leads him back to Emerson and Thoreau, Teare's method and fragmented style are nevertheless up to the moment. Remarkable in its range, *Sight Map* serves at once as a cross-country travelogue, a pilgrim's gnostic progress, an improvised field guide, and a postmodern "pillowbook," recording the erotic conflation of lover and beloved, deity and doubter.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beneath every love poem there lies dishonesty. Love is never like what the poem said. And how would that poet know? My love was different. And I know True Love is different than that. And Mature Love is another thing entirely. The problem with love poetry is that love is too complicated to be nailed down by one poem. Love is wily and many-legged. Have you ever met Desire? It's cruel. Sometimes it's elusive. For that matter, everything about Love Relations usually stays pretty aloof. It reorders itself at will. And, poor poets, everything about love is being constantly rediscovered. No one sees this when they're in love, but when you're rediscovering love it's just like when you're first discovering it. And everyone's said that before. So why write love poems? Unless you're Brian

Teare's Sight Map, because these poems understand love like the book was underneath it all along. Love changes. Love inhabits us. And trying to explain this habitation is where Teare's book pulls away from the most common tropes used to explain love. For Teare, language literally rearranges in the first section. It's like when our desire for love is rearranged into being loved at that moment of consummation. I really can't celebrate this part of Teare's book enough. Read through "Emerson's Susquehanna" and "To Be Two," and when you come to the third section of "To Be Two," just listen. Lines from the poems before get reordered into this lyrically fluid tenderness. In fact, the recognition that this poem is from the poems coming before it is actually a sensual experience. I feel this poem and the warmth inside it. If only love could always inhabit us like that. But what's a book about love if it's not fraught by desire?

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