



The Spectral Wilderness (Wick Poetry First Book)

Oliver Bendorf

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Winner of the 2013 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize, Mark Doty, Judge

Named a Best Poetry Book of 2014 by Entropy Magazine

It s a joy. . .to come nearer to a realm of experience little explored in American poetry, the lives of those who are engaged in the complex project of transforming their own gender... Oliver Bendorf writes from a paradoxical, new-world position: the adult voice of a man who has just appeared in the world. A man emergent, a man in love, alive in the fluid instability of any category. --**Mark Doty**, from the Foreword

Bendorf's poems give us all we have ever wanted. --**Natalie Diaz**, author of *When My Brother Was An Aztec*

Astonishing. --*The Literary Review*

Bendorf's collection indeed opens the door to a spectral wilderness, an otherworldly pastoral, a queer ecology endlessly transformed by possibility, grief, and the unruly wanting of our names and bodies. Stunningly lyrical and beautifully theoretical, *The Spectral Wilderness* is an invitation one cannot turn down; the book calls us to travel with Bendorf, to study the topography of becoming because what we used to be matters in the way that language matters however fleeting, however mistaken, however contradictory it might be. --**Stacey Waite**

What gorgeous and ravenous rackets Oliver Bendorf's poems are made of; what a yearning and beautiful heart. Lift a geode from the ground and crack me open, he writes, which is more or less what these poems do for me: break me open to what might sparkle and blaze, what might glisten and burn inside. *The Spectral Wilderness* is a wonderful book. --**Ross Gay**

Oliver Bendorf's poems draw unflinching attention to the process of making... Bendorf strips a poem to its scaffold with an honesty that is at once funny and unbearably sad. --**Blackbird**

Bendorf's first book will make you hungry for his next... I folded over the corners of the pages I liked best, and now it sits crooked on the table, all swelled up on one edge, like a board taking on water. --**Chelsea Biondolillo**

For any seeker desiring company during a life change great or small. --**Original Plumbing**

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From reader reviews:

Inocencia Hensley:

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Terrie Delgadillo:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Spectral Wilderness (Wick Poetry First Book) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Ethel Springer:

The reason why? Because this The Spectral Wilderness (Wick Poetry First Book) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Margaret Ochoa:

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