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A Strange Relief

By Sonnet L Abbe

MCCLELLAND STEWART, Canada, 2001. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 216 x 137 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The dazzling grace of *A Strange Relief* marks the debut of a singular young poet, Sonnet L'Abb . In her delicately architected, but toughly envisioned poems, L'Abb  surveys the world and finds it both beautiful and unjust. She portrays that complex world with luxurious rhythms and a vocabulary that invites us to marvel at languages infinite possibilities. Whether she is writing about living in Korea in "Cheju Diary," or about the Aral Sea in "Nomads," she shows a keen sensitivity that can at once bear witness to the experience of the cultural outsider while vividly imagining the internal struggles of people whose stories are rarely heard within our borders. But these poems, which span the earth, are also literally about shaping that earth. *A Strange Relief* is very much about making: making who we are, how we live, and also about making poetry itself. L'Abb s lyric sequences play on the ear with formal measures and headstrong lines that reinforce her thrillingly varied, but interconnected themes of politics, geography, and love.



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Reviews

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