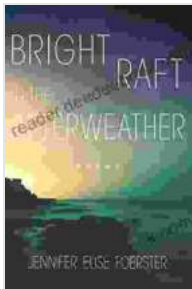


Unraveling the Luminosity of Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems: Sun Tracks 82

In the literary realm, where words dance upon the page, Jane Hirshfield's collection, *Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems*, emerges as a radiant beacon of poetic artistry. Published in 1999 as part of the esteemed Sun Tracks series, this body of work illuminates the tapestry of human experience through the prism of nature, memory, and the indomitable spirit that resides within us.



Bright Raft in the Afterweather: Poems (Sun Tracks

Book 82) by Lawrence Bohme

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3235 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 88 pages



A Tapestry of Nature's Embrace

Hirshfield, a keen observer of the natural world, weaves vibrant threads of flora and fauna into her poetic fabric. In "Field Guide," she invites us to behold the intricate beauty of a bee, its "small, hard body / dark as a fruit fly..." and its "mouth, a razor licking sweets." Through her discerning lens, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, revealing the interconnectedness of all living beings.

In "The Ice Storm," a celestial performance unfolds before our eyes. Hirshfield captures the ethereal dance of snowflakes, describing them as "a universe of glass, / fragile as a breath." The icy spectacle serves as a poignant backdrop for human emotions, as we witness the fragility and resilience of the heart amidst life's challenges.

Excavating the Depths of Memory

Memory, like a whisper from the past, weaves its way through Hirshfield's poems. In "Memory as Glass," she explores the elusive nature of recollection, comparing it to "splintered glass, / a mosaic of what was." Through fragmented images and sensory details, she invites us to piece together the shards of our own past, uncovering both its joys and its sorrows.

In "The Scattering," Hirshfield confronts the loss of a loved one. Grief, like a relentless tide, washes over the speaker, leaving only "the small remnant" of memories. Yet, amidst the pain, a glimmer of hope emerges, as the speaker finds solace in the enduring bonds of love that transcend the boundaries of time.

Illuminating the Human Condition

Beyond nature and memory, Hirshfield delves into the complexities of the human experience. In "The Weight of Water," she explores the weight of expectations and the desire to break free from societal norms. The speaker longs to "enter the water / and be entirely / without responsibility." It is a poignant reflection on the human need for both connection and liberation.

In "Earth as a Distant Planet," Hirshfield challenges our perceptions of reality. She questions the notion of a fixed identity, suggesting that "we are

only what we are / in the light we use to see." This poem provokes us to contemplate the fluid nature of our existence and the myriad perspectives that shape our understanding of the world.

A Radiant Journey of Discovery

Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems is a radiant journey of discovery, where the mundane and the profound intertwine. Jane Hirshfield's deft use of language and imagery illuminates the interconnectedness of nature, memory, and the human experience. Each poem, a luminous thread, weaves a tapestry that invites us to ponder our place in the universe and the complexities that dwell within us.

As we delve into this extraordinary collection, we are left with a sense of wonder and a renewed appreciation for the wonders that surround us. Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems is a testament to the power of poetry to illuminate, inspire, and connect us to the very essence of life.

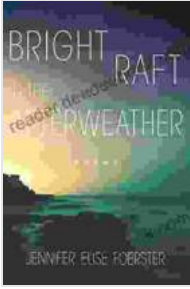
Additional Resources:

- [Jane Hirshfield's profile on Poets.org](#)
- [Jane Hirshfield's poems on Poetry Foundation](#)
- [Jane Hirshfield reading from Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems at the Library of Congress](#)
- [Review of Bright Raft In the Afterweather Poems by Oliver Sacks in the New York Times](#)

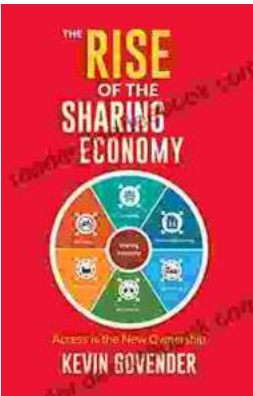
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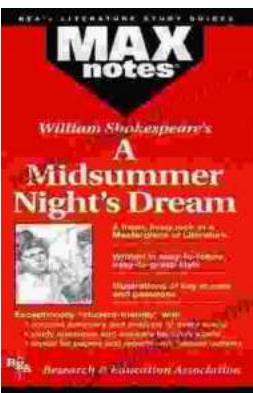


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