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But Not Up Here: Poems About Remembering In Neon



Synopsis

Words about love, loss, grief, PTSD, recovery, and jokes with no punchline. Steps toward finding yourself and singing down the stars.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am still mulling over the beauty of this short collection, but every line, every piece is a thing of grace, and beauty that takes you along the journey that is grief, and healing, and coming to grips with all that comes of losing someone precious. Will add a more detailed review after my next few re-reads.*****I have finally come back to this, and not because I stopped thinking about this book of poems, but because each piece is inexplicably beautiful. There is not a line, or a poem that you ever stop thinking about, long after you have walked away from it, and put it down for good--although, I am not sure this is a collection that *can* be put down for good. RoAnna Sylver is a writer beyond measure, and in each piece that she tells the story of loss, and guilt, and missing, you see it. You see the spectre of a person(s), that lay hand to a life, and irrevocably changed it. It is a hard thing to lose a loved one, and an even more difficult thing to grow in that loss, and learn to

soar after. Her words capture it in a way that leaves you standing right there, on the edge of that grief, looking into the gaping, and gnawing, only to sit down with the ghost of the thing that is gone, and have it whisper in your ear to fly on when you are ready. I cannot begin to describe how deep of an impression these poems will leave on you. Pick them up knowing that you are seeing something captured in words, so few of us have ever been able to express. Pick them up knowing that your heart will fall apart in your hand, and that these pages will also stitch it back together again.*Disclaimer: The author requested volunteers to read, and review the book before it was released. I volunteered quite happily, and it is one of the best decisions I have ever made book-wise. I opened up the first pages, read them, and had to stop immediately because I felt compelled to tell her how much her words had already settled under my skin, and moved me.*

These poems are beautiful--the imagery, writing, and subject matter are just perfect. I'd love to see more people write about PTSD, grief, and heartbreak in such a sensitive and stunning way. I'm not usually an avid poetry reader but I could see myself returning to this collection often! The language and imagery here are polished into gems, and though the subject matter is serious, it's a pleasure to read.

This poetry was exactly my cup of tea. It is lyrical, to the point, and just the right length. While I know poetry is entirely subjective, I am in love with this style. The poems have words that come alive and talk about themes that speak to the crevices inside your heart. Disclaimer: I received a copy of this in exchange for an honest review from the author.

"Words are too delicate. Keyboard keys are too fragile for this restrained expression. I must be composed. I must be vigilant. I must be alive, because it still hurts. How can I reach you? How can I smash enough, slash enough, punch enough, cry enough to demolish my decaying walls and scream until my vocal cords are frayed and torn? Would it even be enough if I found the words?" RoAnna's poems are the kind that you need to reread many times and every time you're going to find a new meaning behind these words. Definitely a collection to check it out if you are also like me and enjoy holding raw words inside your heart for many days. I'll be rereading each poem for a while from now on and hope to see more of her work.

Genre: Poetry Rep: Queer Own Voices author Content Warnings: Reflections on loss, grief, and PTSD containing language that some may find triggering. YOU'LL LIKE THIS BOOK IF... You're a

fan of emotional poetry written in beautiful and compelling language. MY THOUGHTS Poetry - especially free-verse - can be a tricky thing to review. That said, I know what I like, and RoAnna Sylver's But Not Up Here is definitely the kind of poetry I like to sink myself into. This collection is dripping in raw emotion and beautiful language that has an almost lyrical quality to it. Sylver reaches deeper and takes their exploration of the craft further than some of their contemporaries which, at least for me, is a breath of fresh air. This was a privilege to read. WHAT WORKED WELL These poems are beautifully written. Sylver takes advantage of the "anything goes" format of free-verse and plays with words, lines, and prose in ways that engage the reader, taking us by the hand and leading us through the ravages of each letter-like piece and the heartbreak that comes with them. It's impossible not to feel the raw and deep emotions that inspired these poems as you read. It's a captivating experience. WHAT DIDN'T WORK WELL I hesitate to say this knowing the collections were born of negative emotions and experiences but I only wish there was more to it. The collection is powerful but brief and I felt myself aching for more when I reached the last page. (I received a free ARC of this publication in exchange for an honest review)

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