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The Road In Is Not The Same Road Out: Poems



Synopsis

Winner of the Latner Writersâ™ Trust Poetry PrizeA profound new collection from one of poetry's rising stars"Introducing Karen Solie, I would adapt what Joseph Brodsky said some thirty years ago of the great Les Murray: ' . . . He is, quite simply, the one by whom the language lives.' . . . And, yes, as we embark on the third millennium of our so-called Common Era, she is indeed the one by whom the language lives." •Michael Hofmann, London Review of BooksA sublime singer of existential bewilderment, Karen Solie is one of contemporary poetry's most direct and haunting voices. A poet of the in-between placesâ•the purgatory of wayside motels and junkyards, the abandoned Calgary ski jump and the eternal noon of Walmartâ•her poems stake out startlingly new territory and are songs for our emerging world, an age of uncertainty and melting icebergs. In Solie's new collection, *The Road In Is Not the Same Road Out*, she restlessly excavates our civilization, the moments of tough luck, casual violence, naked desire, and inchoate menace, pursuing "Beauty and terror / in equal measure" and fixing on the "Intrigue of a boarded-up building. / We want to get in there and find out what's the matter with it." Amplifying the elegant recklessness of her Griffin Poetry Prizeâwinning collection *Pigeon*, these poems bear an uncanny poetic intelligence and unflinching vision.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Karen Solie's best book yet. With her ear to the ground, Solie's quantum leaps of the imagination match the her encyclopedic reach, demonstrating that the bar for great poets is to write about life lived outside the posturing navel gazing that is the regurgitated daily bread of too many poems.

Solie invests her poetry with great beauty, intelligence and feeling. Take this excerpt from the brilliant "Bitumen": Jackpine Mine photographs beautifully on the shoulders of the day, in the minutes before sunset itâ€™s still legal to hunt. One might, like Caspar David Friedrichâ€™s Wanderer, at a certain remove from principal events, cut a sensitive figure in the presence of the sublime. Except you can smell it down here. Corrosive vapours unexpectedly distributed, caustic particulate infiltrates your mood. As does the tar sands beetle whose bite scars, from whom grown men run. Attracted by the same sorrowful chemical compound emitted by damaged trees on which it feeds, its aural signature approximates the rasp of caustum rubbing its parts together. The only other living thing in situ, in the open pit where swims the bitumen, extra brilliant, dense, massive, in the Greek asphaltos, â€œto make stable, â€• â€œto secure. â€• Pharmacistâ€™s earth that resists decay, resolves and attenuates, cleanses wounds. Once used to burn the houses of our enemies, upgraded now to refinery-ready feedstock, raw crude flowing through channels of production and distribution. Combustion is our style. It steers all things from the black grave of Athabasca Wabiskaw. There are very few experiences in poetry that are as complete as those spent reading Karen Solie's work. I highly recommend it.

Karen Solie is a genius. If you haven't checked her out yet, don't wait another minute. It's breathtaking what great poetry is coming out of Canada.

Some good poems here.

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