## Gloryland



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"Ann Marie Macari's powerful poems make poetic speech seem an utterly natural act. She is the latest ambassador of a great lineage of strong poets whose subject is blood-knowledge. Sexual without needing to be seductive, spiritual without being sentimental, tough and full-bodied, I like so very much the way the poems are always in hot pursuit of the serious mysteries (kinship, sex, mortality)-at once blind and deeply intelligent, pushing into the underbrush of knowing. "Gloryland" is a sensational collection."-Tony Hoagland "Gloryland" re-examines motherhood, death, birth, and rebirth, drawing on religious and secular creation myths to enact a feminist religion. Bold, rich lyrics reveal the grand in the domestic, claiming the physical as an essential part of the -female experience, declaring that to "live fully in the body "is the truest, bravest, and most glorious form of worship. "Book One" "Light was being, held by her own hands or touched like water burning bare skin. In the beginning meant learning to see: a thousand kinds of green, the vine-crawl along rocks, the groping mouths of flowers. In the beginning all they knew was yes, so when the first no settled quietly around the tree they thought it birdsong, it took days or weeks for them to even notice its echo in the leaves, an absence really, the start of loss. Later, when the suffering began, who could she turn to and say: I didn't ask to be born, squatting, the light separate and cold, distant as God, and she, already, refusing to kneel." Anne Marie

Macari's first book, "Ivory Cradle," won the APR/Honickman First Book Prize in 2000. Her poems have been published in many magazines, such as "TriQuarterly," "The American Poetry Review," "Five Points," and "The Iowa Review." Macari is on the core faculty of the New England College low residency MFA program.
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