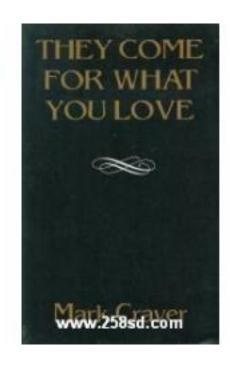
They Come for What You Love



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著者: 出版者: 出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780914061649

Amazon.com Craver lambastes the omnipotent " They" in his long title poem that makes up the first of this book's three parts. " They" don't care about you, but are sticklers for nebulous societal rules. " They" take and seldom give. No subject is safe: not teachers or police or neighbors or even other poets. The poem is interspersed with occasional prose narratives about, for example, loss and instability that includes " father" among the crimes of " They." This tangential sidestepping adds an interesting quality that nicely shifts the focus of the listing and lyrical poetry. There is no space in these poems for mincing " poetical" words or for impotent yearning for vague concepts of beauty and truth. These poems are tough and realistic. For example, the images in " Manassas" reveal the universe as a place where all creatures make do with

| what they have, despite individual plans. " Speed-butchering a Deer by Trucklight " explores the shallowness with which rationale can bury respect when a deer is accidentally killed on the road. " Glory to God " takes the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins over the edge when Craver shows that there is no glory unless tragedy and despair also exist. These poems keep language honest. |
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