

The Pear As One Example



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著者:Eric Pankey

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This book offers a generous selection from Eric Pankey's previous seven collections of poetry as well as a book-length group of new poems. For Pankey, language is a means of divination, of augury, of reading the world—the refracted past, the ephemeral present, and the mutable future. While these meditative poems are deeply philosophical, their subject is the world of things. In these poems, he explores the world by way of the body—the body as a marker of time, the body as a vessel of grief, the body as an ecstatic radiant filament. Like an alchemist, Pankey takes the elemental and transmutes it into the mythic. At the center of many of these poems is a spiritual crisis. Pankey is like the man Flannery O'Connor describes in her essay, "Novelist and Believer," who "can neither believe nor contain himself in disbelief and who searches desperately, feeling about in all experience for the lost God." Each of these poems is a pilgrimage. If Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson are the strange, arranged marriage that gave rise to American poetry, Pankey is their offspring: at once expansive and concise, clear and hermetic, and visionary and mystic. Born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1959, Eric Pankey directed the MFA program at Washington University in St. Louis for many years. For the last decade, he has taught in the MFA program at George Mason University, where he is professor of English and the Heritage Chair in Writing. He lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with his wife and daughter.

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