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a chapbook of poetry

EVERYTHING HERE



Title: *Everything Here*

Author: Billie Swift

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BIO

Billie Swift lives in Seattle, Washington, where she is the owner and operator of Open Books: A Poem Emporium. She received an MFA from the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University.

SYNOPSIS

Billie Swift's *Everything Here* meditates on the mythologies of the banal with a calibrated ambivalence. The "here" of Swift's poems rebuffs and bolsters the eye's ability to document, the body's ability to believe the swelter of its sensate world: "Compare this to flight. / The flight will be my hand / pushing through the dark, / the feel of nothing / against my palm." The speakers "hold [their] mutual / eternities, [their] shared bits of air," unafraid to point toward your favorite star and proclaim it less than alive. Swift's poems share a fabulous muzzle, parsing one hundred tabletops, one hundred jays, one hundred trees, in sharp, precise language. *Everything Here* is a lissome spell for an othered quotidian, each poem a way to "stay / still, wanting to be that important."

PRAISE

"*Everything Here* reminds us that a stanza is a room, and from room to room we walk through this house of the book with all of its windows and swarming shadows. A restless witness lives here, recording the world around us as she names then renames its objects, transforming what was once familiar into something peculiar: 'The bird will be / a blue colored pencil.' Billie Swift encourages the reader to pick up the bird and draw in the white space of the poems, in the starkly unsaid, which hovers like a strange atmosphere though it is never estranging, 'hum of cool and clock. The click / of dog.' These poems carry whatever longings were there in that far off field bringing them here closer to you."

—Carolina Ebeid, author of *You Ask Me To Talk About The Interior*

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