



Charming Gardeners

David Biespiel

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The formally nuanced and wise epistolary poems in David Biespiel's new collection are grounded in friendship, camaraderie, and the vulnerability and boldness that defines America.

Roving from the old Confederacy of Biespiel's native South to Portland, Oregon, *Charming Gardeners* explores the wildness of the Northwest, the avenues of Washington, D.C., the coal fields of West Virginia, and an endless stretch of airplanes and hotel rooms from New York to Texas to California.

These poems explore the "insistent murmurs" of memory and the emotional connections between individuals and history, as well as the bonds of brotherhood, the ghosts of America's wars, and the vibrancy of love, sex, and intimacy. We are offered poems addressed to family, friends, poets, and political rivals -- all in a masterful idiom Robert Pinsky has called Biespiel's "own original grand style."

I should stop back there

And stand on both feet in the grazing sunlight

And hear this chorus of America singing.

But I am so afraid of the testament of the delivered.

from "TO _____ FROM THE JEWISH CEMETERY IN WILLIAMSON, WEST VIRGINIA

Charming Gardeners Details

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Author : David Biespiel

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From Reader Review Charming Gardeners for online ebook

Bryan says

All of the poems are in the form of letters. I enjoyed them overall, but some were much better than others.

Dennis Jacob Rosenfeld says

A few of the poems are downright horrendous, a large part of them are mediocre, but that leaves a couple that are absolutely brilliant. The idea of letting the poems take the shape of letters obviously ties Biespiel down more than it frees him. One shouldn't submit to form unless it furthers ones writing. In most of these poems it doesn't. There's no doubt that Biespiel can write and even in the poems I disliked the most, contained lines of great beauty. There's enough good writing here to make me want to check out his other poetry. This one just wasn't my cup of tea.
