

PRESS RELEASE

A LIGHTNING NEW VOICE REVEALS THE EPIPHANIC POWER OF SIMPLICITY IN DEBUT POETRY COLLECTION

Time Peels All to Original White – Xueyan Poems, Praised by U.S. Reviewers; Transcends Borders, Cultures, Races, Beliefs; Shows that Freedom of the Soul is Universal and Sheds New Light on Infinite Possibilities of Individuality

February 2023 (Fernwood Press)

Xueyan, a new voice in poetry opening infinite possibilities to love and be free. Her iconoclastic debut collection, *Time Peels All to Original White* (Fernwood Press, February 2023), offers unconventional structure and ideas that reinvent popular thinking about matters of the spirit and encourage personal exploration of ultimate meaning.

Xueyan writes: "If I am an ocean, spirituality is the moonlight that shines eternally on me."

Time Peels All to Original White is a deliverer of timeless, pithy truths, crisp images, and questions that cut to the core of our humanity. Infinite in meaning and theme, this collection reflects on eternal matters through love, myth, and religion.

The collection's 139 concise, deeply spiritual poems—some composed of just a few lines—lay bare humanity's most jarring mysteries and contradictions, exposing their raw essence with startling simplicity in a way that transcends borders, cultures, races and beliefs.

Surpassing the need for commentary or even setting, Xueyan's poems are remarkably timeless, placeless. Universal.

Many of the poems balance on tension, teaching that "to hold the fire / a candle / must melt."

Consider "Big Small:" "Even if I have conquered the whole world / after death / my body will rest in only one tiny plot."

Or “Color of Sin,” in which “Eve bites the apple / It begins to oxidize.”

The short, stinging “Cup” suggests that love—which in many of Xueyan’s poems is a redemptive force linked to eternity—can at times feel in short supply (BookLife): “You empty my cup / by filling / hers.”

Still others remind us of our capacity to love and be loved, remind us that “every fleeting moment / we breathe and create together /is eternity.”

Some poems take ironic stabs at our existence. In “To Wake,” “Humans wake because they are hungry / not because they love the world.”

And in “Family Reunion,” readers discover the young poet’s sly, incisive wit: “I eat an egg / then a hen— / together again.”

Xueyan writes: “I want to create something completely different from anything — but any thing has a part in it.”

Christianity, Buddhism and classical mythology converge alongside descriptions of nature and unguarded moments of everyday life in ways that boldly challenge stereotypes of God, and matters of the soul and heart.

BookLife (Publishers Weekly) praised Time Peels All to Original White as “striking” and “richly emotional.” Foreword / Clarion lauds it as “inventive, beautiful, fresh and deep.”

Writing in English, Xueyan forcefully and passionately demonstrates through this collection that freedom of the soul is universal and even the most radical disruption can be arrestingly simple.

Belief, tragedy, abyss, intimacy, eternity, love—Xueyan will captivate with these themes and demonstrate how “poetry is the breath of the heart.”

Xueyan writes: “Poems just come to me. Like wind touching grass, and the grass just waves.”

Reviews for Time Peels All to Original White

Imaginative and inventive, beautiful, and deep, the poems of Time Peels All to Original White muse on subjects of perennial relevance in fresh, literary ways.

— Foreword Clarion Reviews

Richly emotional poems of faith, connection, and eternity. The sacred, the eternal, the ecstasy of intimacy: Xueyan binds all this together, in tight, gripping verse.

— BookLife by Publishers Weekly

A Chinese poet seeks answers in the sky and the soul in this debut collection. From the first page to the last, the poems are dramatic and deeply spiritual.

— Kirkus Reviews

About Xueyan

Xueyan lives in China. She was born August 8, 1993.

Her poems have been published in Authority magazine, Ginosko Literary Journal, and The Bangalore Review.

Author's Bio Poem

雪雁

Xueyan

***A mirage imprisoned in dew
a shadow of the Ultimate's dream—***

***when my heart stops whispering to the abyss
and embraces the flame of the Divine***

***snow will fall
the bone ashes of a star***

Website: **www.xueyanpoetry.com**

TIME PEELS ALL TO ORIGINAL WHITE - XUEYAN POEMS

Xueyan | Fernwood Press

February, 2023 | 181 pages

ISBN | 978-1594980923

Paperback | \$18.00

Contact Xueyan | xueyanpoetry@163.com