



WHAT CRITICS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT

GARDEN OF EXILE

POEMS

BY ALEIDA RODRÍGUEZ

ISBN: 1-889330-32-9 (CLOTH) \$20.95 / ISBN: 1-889330-33-7 (PAPER) \$12.95

“Rodríguez’ debut . . . has charms: some inhere in its Spanish-and-English felicities, others emerge from the life story the poems tell. . . . Rodríguez infuses magic realism to great effect in her prose-poem series ‘Little Cuba Stories/Cuentos de Cuba’. . . . Its forms, like its eroticism, can be sensual as ‘an anklet of blooming salal dances.’”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“While experience as a Cuban émigré, an artist, a formalist, and a lesbian shapes Rodríguez’ writing, she is a craftsperson who has carefully structured her first collection. . . . Her interests in language itself, linguistics, and bilingualism serve as background for rhyme schemes she deploys transparently. . . . While these poems will surely be popular with various identity politics, Rodríguez has raised them above the mean with an intelligent and appealing sense of art and craft.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Rodríguez has consciously rebelled against the misuse of language and has instead reinvented its function for herself. . . . Rodríguez employs rigorous, well-crafted images without self-consciousness or hesitation. . . . By virtue of her aesthetic and utilitarian concerns, saturated sentences catapult the reader into a heightened awareness of the world.”

—*ForeWord*

“Her work is informed by the exile’s doubleness of language and vision; through that cultural parallax she focuses in startling clarity on the vibrant world around her...”

—*Poetry Flash*

“Writing in both English and Spanish, she employs free verse, formal verse, and prose-style poems to display the magical power she has with words. . . . These poems are like tiny stones that reveal a new detail, a new crevice with each turn and twist. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries.”

—*Library Journal*

“Eloquent, clear verses on love and place. . . reflecting the linking of two cultures and thus defining American experience for a majority of Latinos. . . .”

—*The San Francisco Chronicle's* “Tops of 2000”

“Aleida Rodríguez’s first book of poetry, *Garden of Exile*, is remarkable among its contemporaries for its singular embrace of pleasure, of delight in the word and the image. It is multi-lingual, allusive, omnivorously sensual, and playfully formal, a treatise which embodies loss while also steadfastly incorporating love. It lacks entirely the self-important seriousness that characterizes so many first books, instead of reveling in the pleasures of language.”

—*American Book Review*

“Rodríguez’s poetry is testimony to her facility with her second language and to her lively wit and sense of play.”

—*Multicultural Review*

“Rodríguez describes a life lived in celebration of the immediate, striking, and mysterious physical world, yet always haunted by the sense of a home that can never be recovered. . . . Let us hope that she gives us many more books of this sweet and piercing stuff so that we can share her awe at the world she has lost and found.”

—*The Lesbian Review of Books*

“Aleida Rodríguez possesses a dazzling array of linguistic tools. . . The poems in this lovely first collection are neither shiny nor smudged, but forged with skill and intelligence.”

—*Girlfriends*

“*Garden of Exile* is a lush compendium. . . .Rodríguez’ preoccupation with language is the heart of this book. . . . Rodríguez is sophisticated stuff, equally at ease in several languages, landscapes, selves and forms of verse. . . a poet fully formed and delightfully, deliciously readable.”

—*The Women’s Review of Books*

“A startling book of poetry. After decades of conflict between Cuba and the U.S., the singular voices of Cuban exiles continue to record the poetic history of flight, renewal, and understanding.”

—*The Bloomsbury Review*

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