



Whitethorn: Poems (Paperback)

By Jacqueline Osherow

Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In Poem for Jenne, which opens Jacqueline Osherow's ambitious and challenging new collection, a neighbor has planted larkspur and delphinium in the poet's yard and is tending them hoping to bring color and light into a household stricken by personal tragedy. As the bright blue, star-shaped flowers bloom for a second time, the poet writes, earth's reaching for her heavens, I for words / or any chink of rapture I can claim. The pervasive theme, in this poem and throughout *Whitethorn*, is that human suffering may be irremediable, yet in nature and language one may find a key to unlock the mysteries of sorrow. Osherow searches for that cipher by exploring a range of suffering, from the personal to the historical and cultural. In the poem *Orders of Infinity* she visits Treblinka and, in her inability to count the stones or quantify the real loss of the Holocaust, ponders the impossibility of imagining the unborn generations of the victims' descendants, an infinity of lives not lived, undreamed daydreams, mute conversations, ungratified indulgences, failed hints . . .

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