



The Pear Orchard portrays the struggle of a woman to embrace her deafness. In this difficult passage the poet weaves a rich tapestry of imagery from history, visual art, lives of the saints and life on a prairie farm. Weber seamlessly draws on themes of suffering, childbirth, sexuality, rebirth, language and relationships with a poetic language that is charged with insight and spirituality. Perceptions are altered, new topographies are understood, and unheard stories are finally told through this unsettling, yet cathartic journey. This is an auspicious debut by a remarkable new voice in Canadian poetry.

The Pear Orchard is a book of longing, a multifaceted exploration of the dialogue between the human and the divine, the ways that men and women communicate, the ways the world of the hearing collides with the world of the deaf, and how "language come[s] between us, hard as a young green pear."

Few poets shoulder the domain of desire, the urgencies of the body, the mysteries of the spirit, with the lyrical power of Joanne Weber. This is an ambitious and original work, full of life and feeling. Every time you bite into a pear, and its juice runs down your chin, you will think of these poems.

~ Judith Krause

The Pear Orchard is an Eden of exquisitely ephemeral yet eternal feminine language that embraces history and the present moment in its moral landscape. These poems wear wimples and rubies; they celebrate and delight in earth's riches. Joanne Weber mirrors sound with beauty in a singular voice.

~ Susan Andrews Grace

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HAGIOS

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Poems

