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Debut poetry collection makes a meal of the cosmos



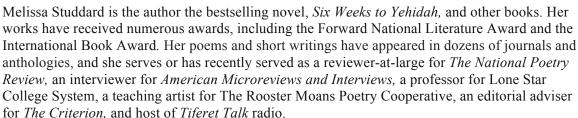
With Whitmanesque exuberance and voracity, Melissa Studdard's *I Ate the Cosmos for Breakfast* is a collection that devours the world even as it offers it—a collection that, through all its doubts and wounds, through "fire, ice, hurricanes, tsunamis, and quakes" arrives "with that tornado in its throat"—love—to spark renewal again and again.

Noting the voluptuous, yet spiritual thrust of the book, Robert Pinsky states, "Melissa Studdard's high-flying, bold poetic language expresses an erotic appetite for the world: 'this desire

to butter and eat the stars,' as she says, in words characteristically large yet domestic, ambitious yet chuckling at their own nerve. This poet's ardent, winning ebullience echoes that of God, a recurring character here, who finds us Her children, splotchy, bawling and imperfect though we are, "flawless in her omniscient eyes."

Poet Cate Marvin observes, "In so many ways the poems in this book read like paintings, touching and absorbing the light of the known world while fingering the soul until it lifts, trembling. Gates splayed, bodies read as books, and hearts

born of mouths, Studdard's study, which is a creation unto itself, would have no doubt pleased Neruda's taste for the alchemic impurity of poetry, which is, as we know, poetry that is not only most pure of heart, but beautifully generous in vision and feeling."



I Ate the Cosmos for Breakfast, poems by Melissa Studdard, is published by Saint Julian Press 62 pp. * 6 x 9 * ISBN 978-0-9889447-5-6 * Hardcover \$18.00

