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Copia (American Poets Continuum Series)

Erika Meitner

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Erika Meitner : Copia (American Poets Continuum Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Copia (American Poets Continuum Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very strongBy C. D. VarnI met Erika Meitner when I as in an MFA program a few years after she released her first collection, but before her second. This was about a decade ago and we were talking to her for a few minutes about books--such as when one should probably read "The Catcher in the Rye"--I noticed she had an ability to draw insight and even spiritual connections out of the banal and exhaustive. This book

continues to prove to that this was a valid observation. This book feels Whitman-esque in its cataloguing and often breathless lines, Meitner incorporates Detroit, Virginia, Niagara Falls, the Bronx and the ghosts of various Walmart's with bits of Christian and Hebrew theology, the intimacies of beginning a family, and the frustrations of clerical and academic life. Meitner is serious without being overly solemn, sometimes sexy, sometimes even a bit gross, and often cracking a sly smile in the middle of a poet. A strong showing for her fourth collection. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Beautiful collection. One of those books that I keep buying to give to other people. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lovely collection By Dan Wilkinson In her new collection of poetry, *Copia*, Erika Meitner writes about urban and suburban life, consumption and excess, desire and disappointment, and perhaps mostly about loss and hope. Meitner's poetry traverses the nature of existence in a world that is both decaying and blossoming, in which the seemingly mundane provides passage to truth. For Meitner, relationships, language, faith, buildings, objects and life itself are simultaneously transitory and expansive, diminishing and abundant. Her poems gently explore these tensions, skillfully connecting the past with the present, and the concrete with the spiritual. Read my full review on Patheos:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/unfundamentalistchristians/2014/10/abundant-and-impossible-to-fill-copia-a-book-of-poems-by-erika-meitner/>

Erika Meitner's fourth book grapples with the widespread implications of commercialism and over-consumption, particularly in exurban America. Documentary poems originally commissioned by Virginia Quarterly Review examine the now-bankrupt city of Detroit, once the thriving heart of the American Dream. Meitner probes the hulking ruins of office buildings, tract housing, superstores, construction sites, and freeways--exposing a vacuous world of decay and abandonment--while holding out hope for re-birth from ashes. Because it is an uninhabited place, because it makes me hollow, I pried open the pages of *Detroit*: the houses blanked out, factories absorbed back into ghetto palms and scrub-oak, piles of tires, heaps of cement block. Vines knock and enter through shattered drop-ceilings, glassless windows. Ragwort cracks the street's asphalt to unsolvable puzzles. Erika Meitner was a 2009 National Poetry Series winner. Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *The Best American Poetry 2011*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. She is associate professor of English at Virginia Tech.

Publishers Weekly, PW Picks: Book of the Week "Meitner, National Poetry Series Winner for *Ideal Cities*, delivers a collection that bursts with American abundance while simultaneously describing its decline. The collection centers around poems Meitner wrote after a commissioned trip to Detroit for Virginia Quarterly ; inspired by urban exploration and what John Patrick Leary defined as 'ruin porn' in his article 'Detroitism.' But Meitner has a stake in personal exploration that brings intimacy and despair to these poems, which makes them more significant than the simple observations of an outsider ogling or exoticizing poverty and decay." Publishers Weekly Starred "When is it plenty? When is it enough? In *Copia*, Meitner gathers material from disparate places big box stores, her grandmother, Yiddish speakers, her life in Blacksburg, VA, travel to Detroit to consider these questions. The parts that she gathers, the fragments of language, the physical pieces of life, the things left behind, lost, abandoned are greater as a collection than any object individually. Things are more whole together, contained, bound. Meitner assembles plenitude only to ask, is plenty enough? That is the richness, the abundance of *Copia*." *The Rumpus* "In Erika Meitner's *Copia*, the abundance of language referred to in the title springs from the American landscape. From the suburbs to the decaying city of Detroit, Meitner uncovers richness of meaning in plain American language. Common objects and signage become mediums for recovering history and personal memory." *Rain Taxi*