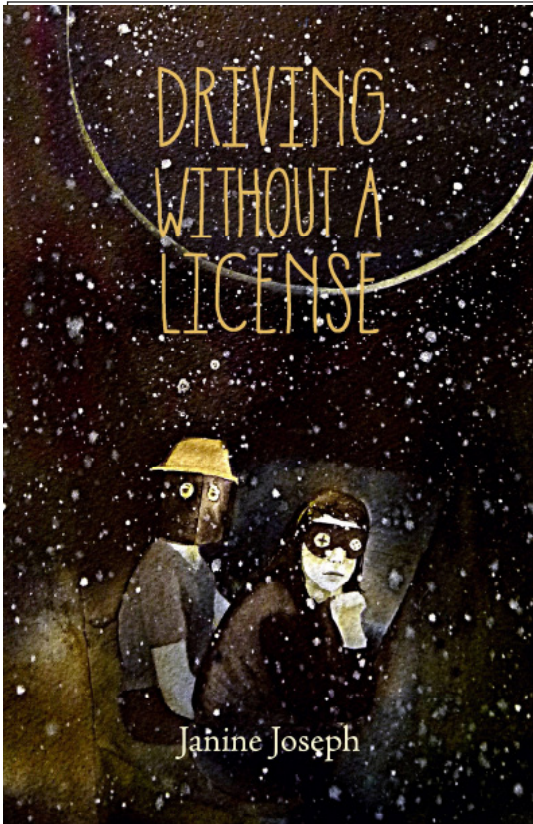


Driving without a License

Janine Joseph



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Praise for Driving without a License:

“Janine Joseph writes with an open and easy intimacy. The language here is at once disruptive and familiar, political and sensual, and tinged by the melancholy of loss and the discomfiting radiance of redemption. A strong debut.”

—Chris Abani

The best way to hide is in plain sight. In this politically-charged and candid debut, we follow the chronicles of an illegal immigrant speaker over a twenty year span as she grows up in the foreign and forbidding landscape of America.

“These poems create a disquieting narrative of American immigration, one in which an undocumented young woman from the Philippines hides in plain sight among the pizza places and schoolyards of Southern California, surrounded by opportunity, risk and threat. Joseph’s sensibility is as psychological as it is political, reminding us that concealment is more than a physical act; it is also a profoundly disruptive emotional and psychological position, one that informs not just the speaker’s sense of the world, but her sense of her self. Brilliantly crafted and intimate, *Driving without a License* complicates the narrative of American immigration, creating from it a poetry of beauty and empathy.”

—Kevin Prufer

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A poem from Driving without a License:

Move-in

California, 1991

Aba had never seen a crane but called the white bird branching
from the street-front pepper tree a crane
and though we knew her eyes were whitening with cataracts
we hipped our boxes and stood nodding on the walk

Without miracle its wings untucked and our beagles split
airstrips of hackles up their coats Fact and in full-color
there it was The tallest bird in North America!
Jan whooped And so it was

Hey welcome the neighbors said and said
it's earthquake season You all ought to strap down
the wall-to-wall-ware the china and mom's
Madonna & Child carved into a wheel of holywood

The waves'll start in the living room they said and shake out
like rattlesnakes from there the epicenter and head
to where the children'll sleep Things could get bad? I asked *Fast*



Jaclyn Heward

Janine Joseph's poems have appeared in *Kenyon Review Online*, *Best New Poets*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA from New York University and Ph.D. from The University of Houston. She is an Assistant Professor of English at Weber State University.

Publicity and Events

- April 2, 2016 @ 1:30 PM: "Inspired by Wonder: A WITS Reading."
Room405,L.A.ConventionCenter.AWP2016,LosAngeles,CA.
- May 19, 2016 @ 7 PM: Reading at the Asian American Writer's
Workshop. New York, NY.
- May25,2016:EmotiveFruition.TheBotanicLab,NewYork,NY.