

We Come Elemental

Tamiko Beyer



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Praise for *We Come Elemental*

“It is easy to notice that *We Come Elemental* is beautifully written, a book indebted to the traditions of lyric and yet attentive to language’s possible innovations. But it is important to notice that it is a book of complicated dialogue between ecologies, geographies, and bodies. Nitrogen, the plastics of the North Pacific Gyre, New Orleans, Saint Louis, lantern fish, muscles of the body, all of it is there, floating together in the body of the poem.”

—Juliana Spahr

Through “queer::eco::poetics,” Tamiko Beyer leads readers to reconsider the true meaning and implications of nature and “natural” order. Reclaiming nature as queer, Beyer inspires us to discard gender dichotomies and uncover the intricate relationships between bodies both human and elemental through syntax as unpredictable as the natural world’s movements.

“*We Come Elemental* introduces us to a poet of uncommon elegance and mystery. These poems act as a tour guide for the human heart, with sparse and fragrant writing. Haunting and full of humanity, these poems lash us to the world underwater and through the body politic with a sizzling ear and eye for what makes the body thrum.”

—Aimee Nezhukumatathil

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“An elegant, dynamic collection immersed in the insistent logic, memory, and drive of water, *We Come Elemental* invites us to inhabit the possibilities endemic to our relentlessly material living being. Fluid and arresting, subtle yet bold, Beyer’s linguistic dexterity showcases a singularly perceptive, refined intelligence and its artful, intimate deliberation upon some of the most critical questions of our time.”

—Duriel E. Harris

A poem from *We Come Elemental*:

When All

Now the bumblebees and now the white-nosed bats.
All the colors. The disappeared frogs
lined up in terrible splendor.

Take water – how it bends
to earth's curve or spills
across a table and evaporates: disappears!
Or a wheezing boy on his red bicycle,
and a rumble and sprung garbage truck.

I lay my palm out.

All the lines converge.



Tamiko Beyer spent the first ten years of her life in Tokyo, Japan, and has since lived in cities on the water on the West and East coast. She is the author of the chapbook *bough breaks* (Meritage Press). She received her MFA from Washington University in St. Louis where she was awarded a Chancellor's Fellowship. Beyer has received grants and fellowships from Kundiman, the Astraea Lesbian Writers Fund, and VONA/ Voices. She is the Senior Writer at Corporate Accountability International in Boston.

Publicity and Events

Saturday, May 4, 2013: Reading with Cynthia Arrieu-King, Joseph O. Legaspi, and Aimee Nezhukumatathil at 11:00 a.m. for the Massachusetts Poetry Festival at 18 Washington Square, Salem, MA. More information at <http://masspoetry2013.crowdvine.com/calendar>.

Saturday, May 4, 2013: Reading with Ching-In Chen, Subhashini Kaligotla, Sejal Shah, and Joseph O. Legaspi at 12:15 p.m. for the Massachusetts Poetry Festival at 18 Washington Square, Salem, MA. More information at <http://masspoetry2013.crowdvine.com/speakers/26043>.

Saturday, May 4, 2013: Reading with Peter Filkis, Lori Desrosiers, Dennis Daly, Ben Berman, Rodney Wittwer and Alex Ivy at 1:30 p.m. for the Massachusetts Poetry Festival at 184 Essex Street, Salem, MA. More information at <http://masspoetry2013.crowdvine.com/talks/29840>

Publicity and Events (continued)

Sunday, June 30, 2013: Boston book launch reading, reception, and book signing from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the MIT Chapel, 48 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. More information at <http://tamikobeyer.com/readings-and-events/>.

Saturday, July 6, 2013: NYC book launch reading from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Bluestockings, 172 Allen Street, New York, NY. More information at <http://bluestockings.com/events/>.

Tuesday, August 27, 2013: Reading with Matthew Olzmann and Jamaal May at 7:00 p.m. for the Bryant Park Word for Word Poetry reading featuring Alice James Books at the Bryant Park Reading Room, 41 West 40th Street, New York, NY. More information at <http://www.bryantpark.org/plan-your-visit/wordforword.html>.