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The Cow



Synopsis

This text is filthy and fertilized, filling and emptying, filling and emptying, atrocious and politic with meaning. The Cow is a mother, a lover, and a murdered lump of meat, rendered in the strongest of languages. "I cannot count the altering that happens in the very large rooms that are the guts of her."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No this has nothing to do with your weight, or mine, or weight at all. The Cow has everything to do with their treatment, and simultaneously - ours. A beautiful compilation of and destruction of and creation of and rearrangement of the procedural and the artistic, it was, for me at least, a new technical poetic/aesthetic. I don't mean technical in the sense of say, well, technique. Here we have something technical as in food technology, as in blue-collar work. This book was a wonderful melding of high and low cultures, poetry, pop culture, food studies, and literary theory. Who doesn't like food or at least the culture of eating/food?? A poem such as "Rendered" (65) has direct ties to the surge in books such as *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan or documentaries like *Food, Inc.* In this poem typographical fonts separate THE METHOD from the lyrical or the poetic. The section on feeding feed-lot cows corn ("Item" 31) could have been written by Pollan himself with a few poetry courses. But rendering the cow is about forcing the cow into situations it was not built for, and this book is a rendering of what it is to be female - to be rendered. Did you miss that part? Check out the picture on the last page! Haunting. Beautiful. Creepy. The women are literally transformed into cows and the result is ghastly, and the perfect nail in the coffin. The graphicness of

the text grabs you, fills you up, and refuses to let go once you've seen enough. It's firm and unrelenting, but seldom aggressive. It is a whirlwind force that bangs you again and again, but never too much to desensitize you or alienate you. A just right tour de force. Stand up, take it, think about it.

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