



Zoo and Cathedral (Paperback)

By Nancy Johnson

White Pine Press, United States, 1996. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. After glancing at the table of contents of this debut collection (organised into four small sections called Packing Up; Road; Who Else Stayed Here; and Trying To Be Home), a reader could well anticipate a tightly knit travel journal, little suspecting that this journey is to the loneliest town in America . Writer and reader are entwined in a tense, claustrophobic solitude. Images of death, suicide and blood abound; Johnson writes that torture is as inventive as we get . In From a Hospital Bed Downtown , the speaker is revolted by the other patients, and by any gesture of love between patients and family. But the work can also demonstrate sensitivity and compassion; anyone who has ever lost a loved one will not fail to marvel at Postcard: Widow on Her Second Honeymoon . Other poems display a sloppy surrealism, and the final section contains some decidedly weaker pieces. But given the grim intensity of Johnson s finest poems, readers might be just as happy for this space to catch their breaths.

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