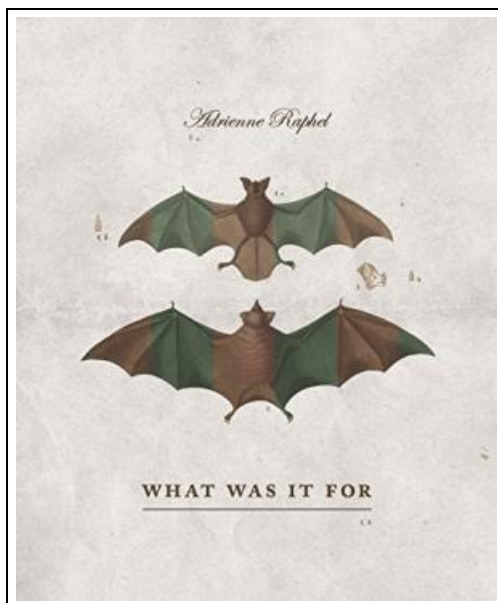


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Rescue Press, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Poetry. In her debut collection WHAT WAS IT FOR, Adrienne Raphel revitalizes the topsy-turvy lyric and its evergreen sagacity. Through playground doggerel, charm, and riddle, these poems cry fair and foul to a world where pate geese dabble in fields of lavender, crises get wallpapered over, hot air balloons stalk pleurably, cash changes for gold, and the moon sinks into the sea to the thrum of the metronome. That world is this, our own and only, so reader, climb aboard: like a carousel, each poem loops round and round, granting dizzying vistas. All the while, these poems spill over with wonder--as in query, as in jubilee--just as a child chants why, but why, but why. By way of answer, WHAT WAS IT FOR offers an immortal, resounding question. Adrienne Raphel's lexical sleight-of-hand in her debut collection astonishes me. Her poems are feral and full of feverish delight. Her corkscrewing rhymes enchant as she incants the phenomenological joy of living among earthly and unearthly wonders. Raphel takes Victorian nonsense verse into the twenty-first century and transforms it to her own strange and genius song. --Cathy Park Hong As maddening, incantatory, and exhilarating as the nursery rhymes of the most gifted, twisted children, What Was It For trembles with the terrifying, unspooling energy of a maypole rewinding in eternity. Pulsing and pulling concentrically// to the center of centers, unfurling/ in crooked angles, and falling without falling, Raphel's dangerous, luminous mode is the carousel spell --enchanted and hell-bent. --Robyn Schiff Nothing escapes Adrienne Raphel's notice--whatever her eye trains itself on blooms with mystery, logic, fractal intelligence and a feverish, near-mathematical stumped-ness. Her depth of thinking and clarity of observation leave no assumption unchecked; it's almost as...



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