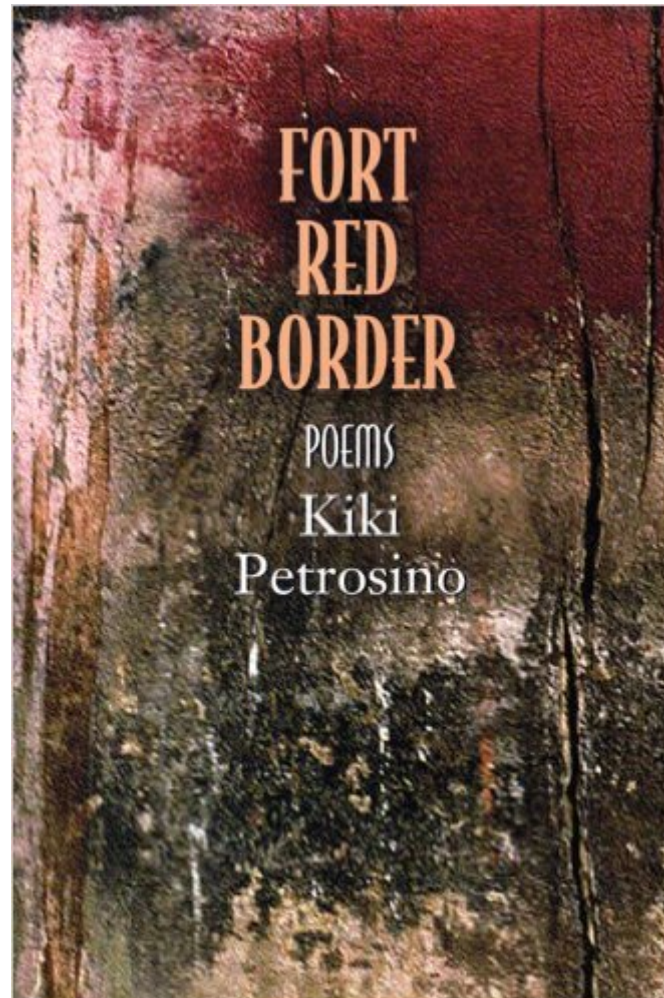


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Fort Red Border: Poems



Synopsis

Fort Red Border, the title itself an anagram for the name of this remarkable collection of poems, shows how language can be pleated, unfolded, and creased all over again into an endless origami of Eros. . . . By turns clowning, worshipful, heartbroken, and Faulknerian, these lyrics transport the reader to a familiar place made utterly strange. Srikanth Reddy Kiki Petrosino has audacity to spare. She devotes the entire first section of her debut collection of poems to a putative affair the speaker is conducting with an imaginary Robert Redford. In the poems, Redford is solicitous of the speaker, as well as curious about her difference, probing her about the various meanings of "natural" when applied to her African-American hair. The poems' hilarity and poignancy issue from the speaker's distance from, and yearning toward, the center of mainstream culture. Redford serves as ideal partner, the embodiment of American masculinity; but there is also an odd tenderness and actuality to the relationship. In these poems Petrosino is fearless, proceeding from the recognizable terrain of daily life's emotions rather than seeking refuge in the cool of mere obscurity. Petrosino's poems scout a new path, one that discovers a believably fierce, vivid, feeling self. Kiki Petrosino is the author of *Fort Red Border* (Sarabande, 2009) and *Hymn For The Black Terrific* (Sarabande, 2013), and the co-editor of *Transom*, an independent on-line poetry journal. She holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Her poems have appeared in *Tin House*, *FENCE*, *Jubilat*, *Gulf Coast*, and *The New York Times*. Petrosino teaches creative writing at the University of Louisville.

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Customer Reviews

Poems are naturally dialogues, and knowing the target gives them extra meaning and subtext. "Fort Red Border" is a collection of poetry from Kiki Petrosino, taking a unique path in the body of her work. Posing a conversation between the poet and icon Robert Redford, she presents intriguing stories and verse that have a flavor all their own. "Fort Red Border" is a fine and original book of poetry, highly recommended. "Virginia": Beneath a tender flitch of skin, the grease/ants make & traffic./O brown fliskmahoy/of speed./O limit case./Why linger/at this roadside?/Why stretch your bloody ankles/into the sun's mouth?/Here, the redstern filaree/spins her basal rosette - your broken hands/catch down in tangles. But don't you smell the wild/bergamo? The tarnished wheel of knapweed/at your crown? How the dirt is rasping/O my trackside love, my age--

nice collection

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