



Each Luminous Thing

Stacie Cassarino

Persea Books (Nov 7, 2023)

Softcover \$15.95 (64pp)

978-0-89255-601-4

Care, from *carry*: as happens mysteriously in utero; from what was once her single-selfed existence, the poet assumes the burdens of maternity—a *carrier*'s nine-month *care* package that stretches into motherhood and beyond. In *Each Luminous Thing*, Stacie Cassarino's three daughters serve as her "sources of luminosity," a stellar second act to her Lambda Literary Award-winning debut, *Zero at Bone*.

Love Poem to August

*I'm not sure if dusk falls
or rises when I look up
from watering the garden
towards my daughter's cry
inside the house. Outside,
bats looping in circles
that want to be seen, so nearly
striking every dimming object:
lamppost, lilac, elm, roofline,
face of the pregnant woman
watering the garden. If I were
to lose track of time, walk
walk until I forgot I was needed,
would that make me less necessary?*

*The body carries its weight
forward, unsteady. Pines blacken
against the blue-edged ledge
of this lonely evening
in which I am only a mother,
a mother only
until all goes quiet. Inside,
two forms beginning
to resemble daughters, already
learning to breathe. Outside,
the sky lowers its floating stars.
One body leans against another.
What I can still identify
hangs heavy then splits:
more than one thing in the dark—*

*creaturely, impatient—
waits for me.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2023)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The publisher of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the publisher for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.