



Imperfect Present: Poems

Sharon Dolin

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In this masterclass in effervescent wordcraft, even as it ranges through troubled terrain, Sharon Dolin proves to be a poet for the love of sanity. Seven collections of poetry, a Pushcart Prize, 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship recipient, and Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress all attest to her boundless talent.

Self-Portrait as a Corncrake

*There is no ratchet thirst like this
.....no pinions burst
.....nor dominion girt like this*

*there is no sporadic quiet like this
.....no barrier tight like this
.....no hay meadow flight*

*there is no awake like this
.....no feathered shake
.....no migrant slaked like this*

*there is no fraught like this
.....no one wing caught like this
.....nor hunted one sought*

*there is no age like this
.....no brink of next stage
.....no nest in shade like this*

*there is no sedge like this
.....no now—no wedge—like this
.....no how.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2022)

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