

love belongs to those who do the feeling

POETRY BY
Judy Grahn



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ISBN: 978-1-59709-121-3

Binding: Tradepaper

Size: 6 x 9; Pages: 272

Pub Date: October 15, 2008

Price: US \$21.95

Judy Grahn takes her title from a poem commemorating the death of her first lover, but love belongs to those who do the feeling is far from elegiac. Grahn writes of the erotic as “a force between artists...an enfusion of energy fueling the desire for change.” “Belly dancers,” she adds, “express love and spiritual community this way as well.” No poems are more “active” than Judy Grahn’s, but cultural change is already present in her choice of metaphor: in our warrior-glorifying culture, she chooses the dancer. The poems in *love belongs to those who do the feeling* express the longing for community, but if you read them carefully you will see that in another sense they are themselves community. What Jack Spicer said of his own poems is true of hers: “They cannot live alone any more than we can.” If you want the future, here it is.


—Jack Foley

I am thrilled that Judy Grahn’s amazing poetry will once again become available to a new generation. She is a phenomenon—a fierce poet of witness and action, a visionary, with a tough and compassionate heart and a piercing intelligence, rooted in a spirituality that locates the sacred in the belly of the profane. And what a writer! Look at her wit, her compression, her ear for rhythms and sounds, her instinct for dialogic tension, her ability to compose large structures held together as in music by expected and unexpected recurrences, her common woman’s twentieth century vocabulary along with ancient and archaic uses of language: naming as ritual, cursing, keening, spell-casting. Anyone who reads Grahn will be changed for life. Repeat: for life.

—Alicia Ostriker

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Book Description

Praise for love belongs to those who do the feeling

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Author Biography

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Judy Grahn is a poet, writer, and social theorist. She currently serves as Research Faculty for the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, California. She is former director of Women's Spirituality MA and Creative Inquiry MFA programs at New College of California. Her books include *love belongs to those who do the feeling* (Red Hen Press, 2008), *Blood, Bread, and Roses* (Beacon Press, 1994), and *Edward the Dyke and Other Poems* (The Women's Press Collective, 1971).



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 15, 2008

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