



News from

Red Hen Press

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A Measure's Hush

Poems by

Anne Coray

In these lyrical meditations on fame and death, Coray celebrates the making of art and the gifts of language while reminding us that worldly pursuits are folly. These are poems for the bereaved, to be read at funerals and wakes or during the course of any ordinary day, offering insights on loss and longing that are oddly comforting. Oddly, because there are deep and oftentimes contradictory emotions at play here, but also hard-won reconciliation.

A Measure's Hush

Poems by Anne Coray

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Released

Biographical note:

Anne Coray is the author of *Bone Strings* (Scarlet Tanager Books); coauthor of *Lake Clark National Park* (Alaska Geographic Association); and coeditor of *Crosscurrents North: Alaskans on the Environment* (University of Alaska Press). Her poetry has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Poetry*, *North American Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Women's Review of Books*, in several anthologies, and on the *Verse Daily* web site. She has been a finalist with White Pine Press, Carnegie Mellon, Rooster Hill Press, Water Press & Media, and Bright Hill Press. A two-time Pushcart Prize nominee, Coray is the recipient of grants and a fellowship from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and an individual artist project award from the Rasmuson Foundation. She lives at her birthplace on remote Qizhjah Vena (Lake Clark) in southwest Alaska.

Praise for *A Measure's Hush*:

"Anne Coray's poems are quiet epiphanies. She is at home writing about nature, art, mortality, history and myth. Wind is her most insistent metaphor—appropriately so for a poet who lives on a remote lakeside in southwest Alaska. She wants a language that can contain the wind, and often finds it—sometimes a gentle breeze, sometimes a tempestuous storm. I'm very happy to have *A Measure's Hush* on my poetry shelf."

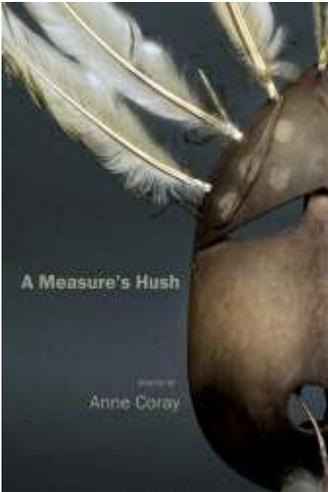
—Fred Moramarco, Founding Editor, *Poetry International*

"But really great poets take ordinary things and make them poetic ... with words that lift the mundane, the normal, the frightening and the ugly to those heights at which we can view them as imponderables. It's very different, and very difficult. But not for Anne Coray."

—Libbi Martin, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*



More Praise for *A Measure's Hush*



“Coray is a poet who lives with wind and knows—however much the roots of things might tunnel and take hold—we will be borne off. Her new poems move through depths of elegy: the green scrub and drought of southwestern Alaska; the loss of a brother; meditations on paint and richnesses of gray, on language and everything it cannot capture. She is always attentive to the way the world resists vision. Snow falls on snow, a white bird rests in a white field, the ground ‘[does] not rise in greeting.’ Through a radiant patience, Coray is present for those moments when something cracks and the air spills into crystal ash, the fern in the rain ‘breathes the silver message.’ Without self-pity, and with immense trust, she shows us, sometimes quietly, how death arranges us to live.”

—Joanna Klink, author of *Circadian*

“So It Is Written”

A story not unlike a story.
A story's grail.

When we happen upon the women
they are looking for a plume,
one that will carry them
through the desert's hoodless hours.

Traveling blinds their eyes.
Soon their hands are wasted,
withered runes.
All they have collected they cannot bear:

the skins of a million purple lizards,
the sun of the sun's white sun.

Time, Mr. Anti-climax
steps out and beats his chest.
And the women? They gather around him,
croon and shuffle their feet,

until dust rises from the shimmering sand,
forms claws full of feathers,
then feathers,
then dust.





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