

River Electric with Light
Poetry by Sarah Wetzel
ISBN 978-1-59709-286-9
Binding: Tradepaper
Size: 6 x 9; Pages: 104
Price: US \$17.95
Pub Date: October 15, 2015



Sarah Wetzel

REDHEN PRESS

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Distributed to the book trade by:
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chicagodistributioncenter.org

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Sarah Wetzel's stunning second collection, *River Electric with Light*, is a work of lyric pilgrimage, a poetry in search of secular solace in a world where violence infuses body, landscape, and dream, a poetry that recognizes that while: "Our lives are always half over. / There's still time."

Sarah Wetzel's *River Electric with Light* is a work in search of the sacred and the spiritually significant. Touching down in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Kabul, New York, and Rome, Wetzel's poems, ranging from lyric meditations to discursive drama, weave themselves from her life as wife, lover, stepmother, and traveler. She names the force propelling her *River*—"If I must choose a word for you, / let it be the word / for what flows," she writes. At times joyful, at times grief-ridden, her poems accumulate associatively, riven together by a common quest. Wetzel's worship is, like her worship of rivers, the worship of the continuing.

Praise for *River Electric with Light*

"I'm in awe of Sarah Wetzel's skill for fusing intensity with precision, Biblical vision with everyday observation, go-for-broke abandon with consummate care. Few contemporary poets have Wetzel's genuine, theological imagination. Even fewer are able to render that imagination with such sensuous skill—a skill that masterfully balances 'delicious disorder' with abiding formal intelligence. *River Electric with Light* is a superb collection."

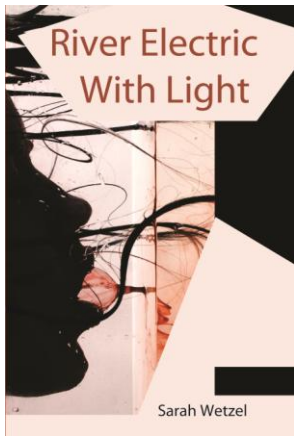
—Peter Campion

"Sarah Wetzel writes 'My worship of rivers is a worship of what flows' and that reverence is omnipresent in her collection *River Electric with Light*. The poems flow and like rivers, everything is carried with its current—meaning, insight, feelings, images. Like a natural river, its banks 'blur' and overflow. This is a wonderful collection of poems that beckons the reader to dive in, to flow, and be swept to surprise. Like a good river journey, once you've finished *River Electric with Light*, you'll want to go back to the beginning and take the journey again."

—J. P. Dancing Bear

Biographical Note

The author of two books of poetry, Sarah Wetzel divides time between New York, Tel Aviv, and Rome, and currently teaches at The American University of Rome.



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From *River Electric with Light*

GHAZAL AT THE END

When will prophets be praised? At the end?
Martyrs expect to be paid at the end.

But what of the dark-haired girl hidden
from the father. Who's more crazed at the end?

The lip, the wrist, the hollow of her neck
the *YesYesYes*, her dress raised at the end.

Afterward when I told you I loved someone
else, you screamed you were betrayed at the end.

Jesus—like any flawed man—from the cross:
why have you forsaken me at the end.

No cup, no fountain, no extinct flower
with white stamen. Yet more days at the end.

With me on my knees, my mouth and my head
in his hands. How his eyes blazed at the end.

Blind old woman of Thebes, were you a secret
pagan, or a true saint at the end?

The footprint. The fort. The moat unable to hold
water. Even when erased at the end.

Sarah, my mother once said, *there are no heroes, no
saints, and, no princess waits to be saved.
at the end,*