



Not Vanishing

Chrystos

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Passionate, vital poetry by acclaimed Native American writer and activist Chrystos addresses self-esteem and survival, the loving of women, and pride in her heritage.

Not Vanishing Details

Date : Published December 1st 1988 by Press Gang Publishers (first published September 1st 1988)

ISBN : 9780889740150

Author : Chrystos

Format : Paperback 105 pages

Genre : Poetry, Glbt, Queer, Lgbt, Lesbian



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From Reader Review Not Vanishing for online ebook

Leah Horlick says

I'm fairly certain every queer in Vancouver needs to read this. Especially white queers.

Nathaniel says

*“A soft old song for every lesbian who wants
to go home
again & can’t
with her woman lover in her arms”*

(from “Crooning”)

Caleb Tankersley says

Visceral lines that often read like stories. Very accessible for those who are less inclined to poetry. That's not to say it's simple or easy to understand. Only that A number of prose poems anchor the collection. Wonderful and surprising in the best way.

Steve says

The vast and expansive imagery that Chrystos uses never ceased to amaze me, as she reminded me what people have gone through, continue to go through, and possibly will continue to go through, for being poor, homosexual, black, indian, a woman, or any number of other pointless "adversities". Persecution and raw emotion ring true in poem after poem. Not to say that every poem in this book is political or downbeat. There were a number of poems about love and the joys of being in love, but in general, I find the poems that rang truest were the ones that were political. I mean, the personal is political.

Beatrice Toner says

Chrystos' poetry never ceases to amazing, awe and inspire.

Ai Miller says

A set of really evocative poems that dig into your head. Her line breaks are just dazzling, and the material itself is painful, angry, and so tender and soft by turns. I would love to spend more time with it, and want to

for sure. Strongly recommend.

Howard Gordon says

The most spiritual poetry, urbane, searching, distinctive, probing, unique.

Bryce Powell says

Chrystos' poems are beautiful, tragic, powerful, crushing, and, above all else, important.

Hannah says

essentially the english language fails me sometimes when i want to capture the depth of importance of experience, and i can't find words for what i want to say here about gratitude and reverence. this collection is full of love and strength and rage that all are incredibly deep and powerful. her form is unique and impactful & the pairings of poems on facing pages embellishes impact. models of family, love, ancestry, and lineage that are decolonized and beautiful are everywhere. i read work like this from a particular place as a white settler queer femme; one element of my place is in recognizing where i do not understand or know, recognizing where emotion and sensation are evoked that move me into feeling love and solidarity, and where gulfs between my experience and what is here are stark, where my own lineage of violence must be seen and felt, as well. made me want to reread anzaldúa's borderlands/la frontera, which is one of my formative influential texts as a white feminist who grew up about half an hour from the southern california border with mexico.

Abi (The Knights Who Say Book) says

A handful of these poems were assigned reading for a class, and even after finishing the assignment I would very much like to read the whole collection some day.

Nomy says

this is some of my favorite poetry, so raw and smart and real... i love chrystos, her work, her perspective, and the fact that she exists... i used to read this shit and cry and wish i could express myself so clearly...

Rekha says

Another good collection of poetry by this Seattle poet. Her strongest poems are either deeply political and angry, or beautifully erotic and gentle. Whether it's grrr or hubba hubba, I like both sides.

Nairne Holtz says

Chrystos prefaces this collection of sex-themed prose-poetry by observing her life as a working class indigenous femme is rarely portrayed in lesbian fiction. This is true but to suggest she should be read as an anti-oppressive practice does her a huge disservice. She's a funny, inquiring wordsmith whose fearless explorations cover an unsatisfying fling with a fellow seducer ("Top Sadist in Town"), the erotic ambivalence of two women who are abuse survivors enjoying spanking, and the beauty and joy of passion ("We're hurtling through stars becoming / here / as we so rarely are").

Jessie says

Beautiful and unforgettable.
