

Rachael
Allen
Kingdomland

Poetry

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Kingdomland is the debut poetry collection of Rachael Allen - a writer of rare vision and flair. The world she creates is suffused with surreal images and uncanny incidents. Unexplained violences and strange metamorphoses take shape in the 'glowering dusk'. And yet, all too clearly, we recognise life here on earth, its everyday griefs, dysfunctions and injustices. Where distinctions between murder and bloodletting, corruption and consumption are blurred. Where a pet tarantula or mimic octopus might find itself beside glands and processed meats. Landscapes shift and identities dissolve: 'the red bricks of the day' exist 'in a woman's chest', a human presence is 'embedded in the walls'. All appears changed, but familiar.

Intercut with oblique verse fragments and a series of linked sequences, Allen blends elements of fiction and ekphrasis to create a haunting and unforgettable debut.

Kingdomland Details

Date : Published January 17th 2019 by Faber Faber

ISBN : 9780571341115

Author : Rachael Allen

Format : Paperback

Genre : Poetry



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From Reader Review Kingdomland for online ebook

Serge Neptune says

Favourite poems: Tower of Masks, Landscape for a Dead Woman, Banshee and all the 'narrow' poems without titles.

I really liked it but I didn't love it and it's heartbreaking :(

vgl3 says

I have been on a poetry kick for a while now, and have read some fantastic collections. For me, this was not one of them. Poetry is so much about personal taste, and mine leans towards the lyrical yet personal, each word chosen to compliment the whole. Metaphors are a beautiful device, when used sparingly. Here, the writing leans more towards 'stream of consciousness' and surrealism, with repeated words, too many metaphors and sentences lacking in flow, making the poems feel disjointed. I just didn't feel a connection to this book, which is vital for me with poetry.

Pauline Macocco says

Brilliant piece of work. Sublime!

Paul "Axl" Askew says

One of those poetry books that is very well written, but there's something that keeps me detached from it.
