



What We Buried

Caitlyn Siehl

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This book is a cemetery of truths buried alive. The light draws you in where you will find Caitlyn there digging. When you get close enough, she'll lean in & whisper, Baby, buried things will surface no matter what, get to them before they get to you first. Her unbounded love will propel you to pick up a shovel & help- even though the only thing you want to do is kiss her lips, kiss her hands, kiss every one of her stretch marks & the fire that is raging in pit of her stomach. She'll see your eyes made of devour & sadness, she'll hug you & say, Baby, if you eat me alive, I will cut my way out of your stomach. Don't let this be your funeral. Teach yourself to navigate the wound.

What We Buried Details

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Author : Caitlyn Siehl

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From Reader Review What We Buried for online ebook

Jessica Ciarcz says

I loved this so so much. I knew I would when I read Caitlyn's poems on Instagram, and especially after hearing her read a few of these poems in person. She is incredible, and I can't wait to read more from her.

Chelsea says

After enjoying so much of her work online, I finally bought her book on Etsy. If I wasn't entirely in love before, I've fallen head-first now. I recognise poems that I have adored, and I've been introduced to new ones that have stolen my heart just the same. Beautiful words.

Amanda Helm says

I read this book as soon as I got it in the mail and what a beautiful story it told. Caitlyn weaves her words to form quilts of desire and passion and heartache and it isn't hard to say that she weaves it inside of us, the readers. If you love poetry, this book is definitely for you. The hard work that went into this book is easy to see and you can see the poet's beauty reflecting out of it in each page.

Sarah says

A collection of poems that explores what's it like be in love and what it's like to fall out of love; the passion, the longing, the hope, the anger, the frustration, the heartbreak and everything in between.

The book starts with the poet falling deeply and profoundly in love. It also explores the void left after the separation.

As the book goes on nonetheless, the poems stop being about her lover and slowly become more about herself.

I loved everything about the book; the lovely design of the cover, the witty flow of words, the astounding images and the passion put into it.

If you're looking for something moving and touching, I highly recommend it.

Anna says

"Tell them you don't know how Eve felt
when she saw Adam in one hand,
and the rest of the universe in the other.

Tell them you don't know how Eve felt
when she wanted the universe."

Manche Gedichte mochte ich wirklich gerne und andere weniger

Katy says

This is possibly the most moving collection of poems I have read to date. I felt as though I was reading about my own life. Caityln's soft, gentle language weaves into your skin and you come away feeling as though you should love yourself more, be braver, and respect every single one of your emotions. I couldn't recommend this book more highly. It is beautiful beyond any string of words that I would be able to put together.

Alice Lippart says

Absolutely brilliant.

Renee Godding says

"I will go to my grave with the memory of bravery in my bones."

elisabetta says

I am still learning how to ask
the important questions, like
"Do you want children?" or
"How do you take your coffee?"
so I'm sorry if I stare at your mouth
and ask if you've ever swallowed
a dandelion seed, instead.
(Kindling)

One day, it will be better.
I will put the pen down
and forget how to remember the nights I tried
to write you out of my system like an addiction.
It will be remarkable and I'll still want to call you.
(Bend the light)

I am earth. I am sun and skies.
I am the high road, the low road.
I am every poem about skin.
I am a world that cannot be explored in one day.
I am not a place for cowards.
(Stretch marks)

I tell myself: No one can hurt you if you hurt yourself, first.
They will be too busy helping you clean up the mess.
(Funny girl)

Everything I write is a love letter
to things that can't be touched.

I am writing this poem to remember everything
that is bigger and more brutal than me.
Stars are not small or gentle.
They are writhing and dying and burning.
They are not here to be pretty.
I am trying to learn from them.
(Sky poem)

Sabrina says

"Stars are not small or gentle. They are writhing and dying and burning. They are not here to be pretty. I am trying to learn from them."

Beautiful. Just beautiful.

Asghar Abbas says

After Sylvia Plath's Ariel, I find myself reading another book of poems in one go, in one sitting. When I got this book, I cringed a little realizing it's a collection of love poems. But the contents weren't sappy at all. Is this volume a testament of love? More like a witness. Like a Fool that won't Die, I still truly believe in its simplicity. Short and powerful, each and every poem was like an Elm tree in a forest planted by Siehl herself. It isn't a lengthy volume, it's rather slim. Ariel was a bigger book comparatively but unlike Plath, Siehl uses simple language, no need to decipher, it's pretty easy to read, enjoy, and still be amazed. The Wordlings are truly delightful. Of course Plath used heavy symbolism and metaphors, so many meanings behind her every word. It's really not fair comparing the two. I can't help but think of Ariel as I read this. All the poems here were light and breezy that dissolved on tongue quite deliciously, making me go boom boom boom ala Jenny Lee. On whole, overall I liked all the poems but I'm partial to Kindling, Prey, In this Story, Maybe Eve was a Wild Thing (my favorite) The Poet (loved it) but really all the entries were impressive.

Length can be an illusion sometimes, because despite the diminutive size the volume had an impact on me. I'd be reading this again. Though because it was so good I felt swindled when it was actually finished, here I can't help but quote WARPAIN'T gimme more gimme more. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention how young the author is although clearly a veteran, still at twenty she exhibits such depth and rawness. She must be commended and applauded for command of the language, the way she twisted and molded the words. This affirms what I have been saying for a while now, that talent is inherent and ageless. I feel duly validated, haha.

The edition I have is just so gorgeously designed, the texture, cover and all. Read it. Read it again. Alone. Or with someone. To someone. Just read. And read this.

Addendum : oh, oh, oh! I just remembered! I really really dug the illustration of a shovel and pile of dirt at the end of What We buried, cute. Symbolizing the obvious, kinda like the ending in the Departed.

Nat says

"You are not Atlas and the world is not a burden for you to carry."

I've seen this poetry collection a number of times online, but had no idea what to expect until I opened the book and was instantly enchanted by the second poem titled *"Three Questions."* And since I can't narrow it down to just one quote - I'm in love with the whole of it and how each line adds *something more* - I've decided to share the full poem:

*"My mother tells me
that when I meet someone I like,
I have to ask them three questions:*

- 1. what are you afraid of?*
- 2. do you like dogs?*
- 3. what do you do when it rains?*

of those three, she says the first one is the most important.

"They gotta be scared of something, baby. Everybody is. If they aren't afraid of anything, then they don't believe in anything, either." I asked you what you were afraid of.

"spiders, mostly. being alone. little children, like, the ones who just learned how to push a kid over on the playground. oh and space. holy shit, space."

I asked you if you liked dogs.

"I have three."

I asked you what you do when it rains.

"sleep, mostly. sometimes I sit at the window and watch the rain droplets race. I make a shelter out of plastic in my backyard for all the stray animals; leave them food and a place to sleep."

he smiled like he knew.

*like his mom told him the same
thing.*

"how about you?"

me?

*I'm scared of everything.
of the hole in the o-zone layer,
of the lady next door who never
smiles at her dog,
and especially of all the secrets
the government must be breaking
it's back trying to keep from us.
I love dogs so much, you have no idea.
I sleep when it rains.
I want to tell everyone I love them.
I want to find every stray animal and bring them home.
I want to wake up in your hair
and make you shitty coffee
and kiss your neck
and draw silly stick figures of us.
I never want to ask anyone else
these questions
ever again."*

Naturally after that I went on with quite high expectations that were for the most part met. The pieces after the above, though, focused heavily on love and heartbreak and "I'm in love with the shape of you" style poems, which I wasn't really feeling... Also, poems like "Do not fall in love with people like me" set my mood from 100 to 0 real quick.

But just when I was starting to worry that this collection was going to be all about relationships and their aftermath, the narrative shifted to center on feelings of strength with feminist undertones, and I was all the more enraptured. Here are a few of those:

In the end, I was won over by the sheer power I felt while reading about the ineffable strength and endurance, suffering and survival that was explored in **What We Buried**.

*"We survive by surviving.
We do it unconsciously,
the way our bodies remember to
breathe, even when we're asleep.*

*The first step is always deciding
to take the first step."*

Also, I listened to this groundbreaking song on repeat while reading, thanks to the most recent Skam clip that's been utterly and completely carved into my heart.

3.5/5 stars

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **What We Buried**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

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elena says

3.5

I mean, I hope you're happy,
but the sky is still the sky without you,
and I'm not surprised by that anymore.

Kelsey Camren says

I absolutely am fascinated and in love with Caitlyn Siehl's poetry. She truly is a talented poet that writes in such a pleasant and profound way that it grasps the reader's attention from the very beginning. I happened to see an excerpt of "Do Not Fall In Love With People Like Me" on Facebook. After doing more research on her and her poetry I was instantly intrigued enough to buy her book. I was even more impressed after reading the entire book. I carry it with me to share to all my fellow poetry admirers. If you're looking for good soul touching poetry, this the book for you!

Luna Valentine says

Absolutely Magnificent Work

Siehl's writing is just as beautiful as I remember it being when I was 16 and needed someone. I connected to this immensely.
