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Dreamlife of a Philanthropist

By Janet Kaplan

University of Notre Dame Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Dreamlife of a Philanthropist, Janet Kaplan, With a salve in one hand and a burcher's knife in the other, Janet Kaplan offers her masterful third collection, "Dreamlife of a Philanthropist," winner of the 2011 Ernest Sandeen prize in Poetry. The prose poems and sonnets in "Dreamlife" are packed with postmodern language-leaping, modern irony and absurdity, and a poet's ageless ear for the pleasures of the lyric and formal experimentation. These are poems that can never quite abandon the hope that life--and language--are worthy pursuits; but they never offer up easy assurances about the benefits of humanity to anyone or anything. Get ready for dogs that wail and overtake the scene; an invitation to make love on a mattress of ants; and the philanthropist of the title, who dreams that people are tuned into fish. It's "good luck and bad in random but equal measure," Kaplan writes in "Life and Times." "In Janet Kaplan's work, the elements of thought--language, shifting self, recurrence, movement--combine into powerful compounds, compounds into machines whose primary purpose is to give shape and music to the void. These machines amaze the world to life, and Kaplan's...



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