



Diwata

By Barbara Jane Reyes

BOA Editions, Limited, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 533 x 358 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Tagalog is a language spoken by twenty-two million people in the Philippines. Diwata is a Tagalog term meaning muse. Diwata is also a term for a mythical being who resides in nature, and who human communities must acknowledge, respect, and appease in order to live harmoniously in this world. In her book Diwata, Barbara Jane Reyes frames her poems between the Book of Genesis creation story and the Tagalog creation myth, placing her work somewhere culturally between both traditions. Also setting the tone for her poems is the death and large shadow cast by her grandfather, a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor, who has passed onto her the responsibility of remembering. Reyes voice is grounded in her community's traditions and histories, despite war and geographical dislocation. From Estuary 2 : She was born with fins and fishtail, A quick blade slicing water. She was her father's mermaid child, A river demon, elders said. She mimicked her cetaceous brothers, Abalone diving bluest depths. She polished smooth her brothers masks, Inlaid nacre half moon eyes. She lit oak...

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