



Apprentice To The Flower Poet Z

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Apprentice to the Flower Poet Z. is about two women: Annabelle, an aspiring young poet from the suburbs, and Z., the celebrated mentor who tries to hold her back. Its no accident that their initials span the alphabet, as this hilarious book is about language, writing, and the appropriation of ideas. It is also about the high-wire relations between older and younger women, between reputation and aspiration. There is so much I wanted to learn from Z., Annabelle confesses in the opening chapter. Obsessed with the question What is poetry? Annabelle thinks her new job with the distinguished Flower Poet Z. will help her penetrate the answer. What is revealed to Annabelle instead are the secrets of Z.s personal lifenot least, her dysfunctional family, adulterous behavior, and professional tyranny. Meanwhile, Annabelle is charged with finding Z.s favorite ink (jet black, not midnight black, not shoeshine black), buying prescription cat food for a cranky literary critic, and illegally beheading flowers in the New York Botanical Gardensanything to preserve Z.s psychic space. As for what Annabelle learns about the literary...



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