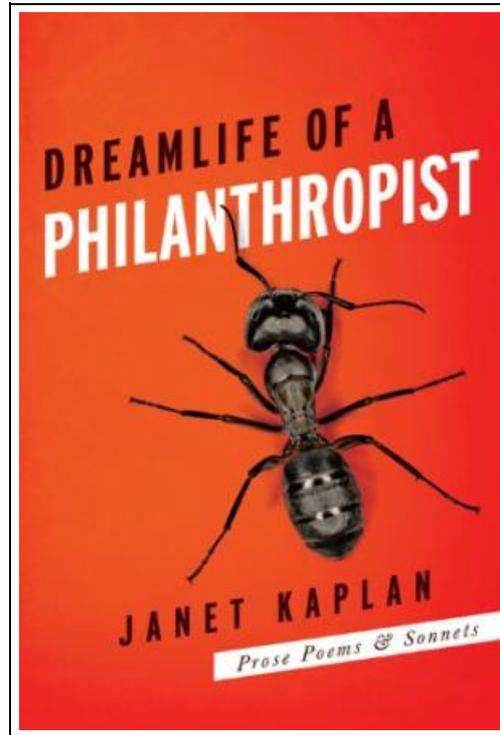


Dreamlife of a Philanthropist (ND Ernest Sandeen Prize Poetry)



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Reviews

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(Harold Spencer)

DREAMLIFE OF A PHILANTHROPIST (ND ERNEST SANDEEN PRIZE POETRY)



University of Notre Dame Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 80 pages. With a salve in one hand and a burchers 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 poets 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. Its good luck and bad in random but equal measure, Kaplan writes in *Life and Times*. In Janet Kaplans 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 Kaplans reader may feel, as I do, lucky to be there at the inception. --Brian ClementsImagination reaches over to kiss reality on the neck in these poems. God and the universe have walk-on parts, as do symmetry, prescription drugs, children, mothers, fathers . . . all in the context of a vibrant animal world placed in the shifting sands of language, with the excitement of a threatened slide into chaos lurking beneath every lovely lyric turn. --Maria Melendez The minds no place for a life, writes Janet Kaplan, nudging reason off the stool where it had sat so preciously balanced. Some poems seek to re-wire the mechanism of..



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