



Fuego

Leslie Contreras Schwartz

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From the bed of the hospital, to the classroom of fourth-grade refugees, or the icy waters being swum by a long-distance swimmer, *Fuego* is a book that explores the extraordinary in the ordinary, the body as a surreal form of existence. At the core of the book is the theme of survival and the awe at being able to survive, and the glory of being ordinary and alive. In this debut poetry collection, *Fuego* explores the failure and blessing of childhood, the surrealism of birth and motherhood, and the estrangement of the body from itself and others.

Praise for FUEGO

"Leslie Contreras Schwartz doesn't use words to smooth over life's edges. Instead, she writes about the jagged parts directly: the struggle of difficult pregnancies, the trials and joys of motherhood, the horrors she saw in her students' lives when she briefly taught fourth grade. (This is) a collection of clear, crisp poems that tangle directly with the stuff of life."

--Houston Chronicle

Fuego is full of fire, of the passionate intensity of creation in the face of great odds - the intensity of difficult pregnancies and childbirth and all-consuming motherhood, of the immigrant student who struggles to write his first sentences in English, the child who falls from her bike and gets up again and again, the long-distance swimmer trying to swim to Antarctica, all of them stand-ins, I think, for the artist who struggles to make something meaningful from language in the midst of life, which is to say in the midst of death. This Leslie Contreras Schwartz has done in her debut collection, and hers is a distinctive and welcome new voice in American poetry.

~ Susan Wood, Gladys Louise Fox Professor Emerita of English at Rice University, author of *Asunder*, National Poetry Series selection 2001

Leslie Contreras Schwartz's *Fuego* is filled with the power of *things*, floods that bring both destructive power and promise of new life, televisions that bring awful news, a small child's naming of clouds. Like Plath's most tender poems, Schwartz's debut collection uses the minutiae of everyday living to create a world where even in the darkest times, light finds a way to come "from under / the shade, / light from under / the door. "

~ Amanda Auchter, author of *The Wishing Tomb*, winner of 2013 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Poetry

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From reader reviews:

Jane Turcotte:

The knowledge that you get from Fuego may be the more deep you looking the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Fuego giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this specific Fuego instantly.

Ladonna Warren:

The book Fuego will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book you just read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Fuego is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

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Malcolm Moser:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be read. Fuego can be your answer mainly because it can be read by a person who have those short extra time problems.

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