


# A Sunny Place with Adequate Water

*By Mary Biddinger*

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**A Sunny Place with Adequate Water** By Mary Biddinger

In her third full-length collection, *A Sunny Place with Adequate Water*, Mary Biddinger untangles past from present, through poems preoccupied with gentrification, imaginary coin-operated machinery, and an uncanny doubling of good and wicked selves. As "Some Dead Magic" testifies, "Even streetlamps couldn't help themselves. // Where could they possibly lead us? There wasn't / any magic left in the world, only stray newspapers." The poems of this book hope that history will somehow provide insight for our current moment, while acknowledging the necessary transformation of desire over time. Part nostalgia recast as seductive angst, part pastoral (and anti-pastoral), these poems explore small town legends in a landscape of longing, displacement, looming disaster, and unexpected joy.

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**A Sunny Place with Adequate Water By Mary Biddinger Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

Review
A little surreal, a little nostalgic, Mary Biddinger's remarkable new collection describes the challenge of growing up a nascent artist in a sometimes resistant, but always-clamorous neighborhood. The speaker evolves from a girl who reverses herself "until there wasn't anything left" into someone who wants to live in the burn, and each poem invokes both the visible and invisible mechanisms that uphold a small town. I'm as moved by this book's incisive take on personal history as I was by James Tate's *Lost Pilot*. -Carmen Giménez Smith

From the Back Cover
These poems proceed by way of declaration & juxtaposition, through keen sight & keener insight. Which is another way of saying that Mary Biddinger sees things & sees through things equally, not privileging one vision over the other. What we have here is our regular old world made richer & more insidious, a place where "the punishments were just as lavish as the draperies," a home we get to see as if for the first time. -Nate Pritts

About the Author
Mary Biddinger is the author of the poetry collections *Prairie Fever* (Steel Toe Books, 2007), SAINT MONICA (Black Lawrence Press, 2011), O HOLY INSURGENCY (Black Lawrence Press, 2013), and A SUNNY PLACE WITH ADEQUATE WATER (Black Lawrence Press, 2014), and co- editor of one volume of criticism: *The Monkey and the Wrench: Essays into Contemporary Poetics* (University of Akron Press, 2011). Her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Barrelhouse*, *Bat City Review*, *Blackbird*, *Crazyhorse*, *Gulf Coast*, *H_NGM_N*, *Forklift, Ohio*, *Pleiades*, *Redivider*, and *Quarterly West*. She edits *Barn Owl Review*, the Akron Series in Poetry, and the Akron Series in Contemporary Poetics, and teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Akron.

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