

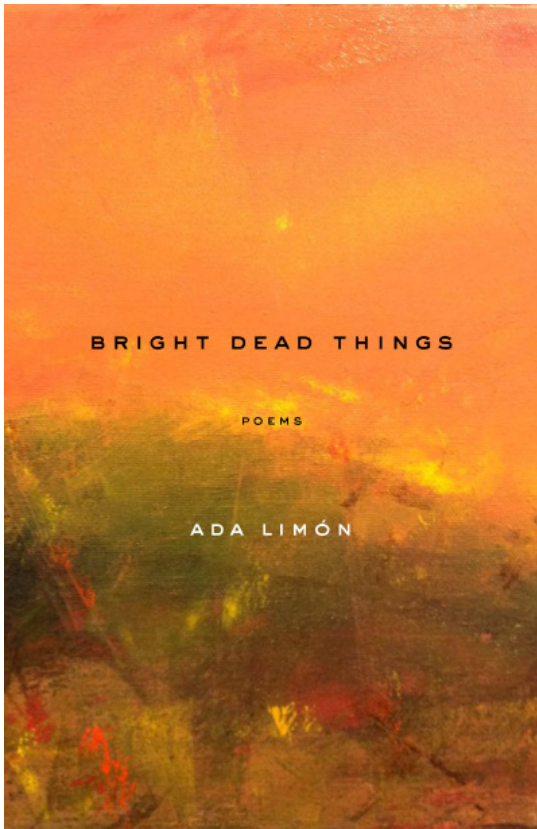


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BRIGHT DEAD THINGS

POEMS BY ADA LIMÓN

September 2015 | Milkweed Editions | Paperback | 100 pp | \$16
ISBN: 978-1-57131-471-0 | E-book: 978-1-57131-925-8



A book of bravado and introspection, of 21st century feminist swagger and harrowing terror and loss, Ada Limón's fourth collection considers how we build our identities out of place and human contact—tracing in intimate detail the various ways the speaker's sense of self both shifts and perseveres as she moves from New York City to rural Kentucky, loses a dear parent, ages past the capriciousness of youth, and falls in love. Limón has often been a poet who wears her heart on her sleeve, but in these extraordinary poems that heart becomes a "huge beating genius machine" striving to embrace and understand the fullness of the present moment. "I am beautiful. I am full of love. I am dying," the poet writes. Building on the legacies of forebears such as Frank O'Hara, Sharon Olds, and Mark Doty, Limón's work is consistently generous and accessible—though every observed moment feels complexly thought, felt, and lived.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"The lyrical genius of these poems sing to us of the perennial theme of home and our primordial ache of belonging. Ada Limón captures all the

nuances that these colossal words call to mind with the gorgeous voice of her diction, and the timbre of her images. Both soft and tender, enormous and resounding, her poetic gestures entrance and transfix." —Richard Blanco

"In the wonderful and wondering poems of her fourth collection, Ada Limón picks things up, puts them down, daydreams, sings, and casually, unpretentiously finds everything strange, all the while uttering truths that have a light, mysterious accuracy. This poetry is confident enough to let the world (Brooklyn, Kentucky, Montana, and elsewhere) and its words take center stage, again and again. And yet, Limón does far more than merely reflect the world: she continually transforms it, thereby revealing herself as an everyday symbolist and high level duende enabler. At the end of one poem she writes, 'What the heart wants? The heart wants/ her horses back,' and suddenly even this most urban reader feels wild and free." —Matthew Zapruder

"Ada Limón doesn't write as if she needs us. She writes as if she wants us. Her words reveal, coax, pull, see us. In *Bright Dead Things* we read desire, ache, what human beings rarely have the heart or audacity to speak of alone—without the help of a poet with the most generous of eyes." —Nikky Finney

"In Ada Limón's *Bright Dead Things*, there's a fierce jazz and sass ("this life is a fist / of fast wishes caught by nothing, / but the fishhook of tomorrow's tug.") and there's sadness—a grappling with death and loss that forces the imagination to a deep response. The radio in her new, rural home warns "stay safe and seek shelter" and yet the heart seeks love, risk, and strangeness—and finds it everywhere." —Gregory Orr

ABOUT ADA

Ada Limón is the author of three previous collections, *lucky wreck* (Autumn House Press 2006), *This Big Fake World* (Pearl Editions 2006), and *Sharks in the Rivers* (Milkweed Editions 2010). Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and *American Poetry Review* among other publications. She has contributed essays and articles to a variety of publications, such as *Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *Poetry*, and *American Poetry Society*. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky. More information: www.adalimon.com.

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