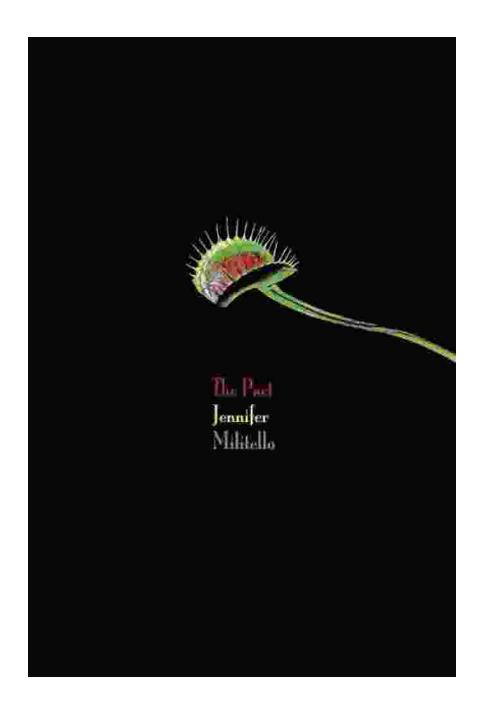
What Flies Want: Poems by Jennifer Militello



Jennifer Militello's fourth collection of poems is a dazzling tour de force, a book that explores the complexities of desire, the search for meaning, and the power of language. In poems that range from intimate to expansive, Militello probes the strange and beautiful ways we connect with each other and the world around us.



What Flies Want: Poems (Iowa Poetry Prize) by Emily Pérez



Language : English File size : 424 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Print length : 77 pages



The poems in *What Flies Want* are full of lush imagery and startling insights. Militello writes about the natural world with a keen eye for detail, but she also explores the human condition with a rare combination of intelligence and compassion. In "The Bees," she writes:



"The bees are coming. I can hear them

in the walls, a low hum like a swarm

of tiny engines, the sound of summer

closing in. I open the windows

and they pour in, a golden cloud

that fills the room with their sweet

scent. I stand there, breathing

them in, feeling their tiny bodies

brush against my skin. I am a field

of wildflowers, and they are the bees

that come to gather my nectar."

Militello's poems are also full of humor and wit. In "The Fly," she writes:



"I am a fly, a small thing,

but I have a big appetite.

I will eat anything, from garbage

to sugar to your tears.

I am a scavenger, a survivor.

I am the one who will be there

at the end, when everyone else

is gone."

Militello's poems are a testament to the power of language. She uses words with precision and beauty, creating poems that are both intellectually

stimulating and emotionally resonant. *What Flies Want* is a must-read for anyone interested in contemporary poetry.

Praise for *What Flies Want*

"Jennifer Militello's poems are a dazzling display of language and imagination. She writes with a rare combination of intelligence and compassion, exploring the complexities of desire, the search for meaning, and the power of language. *What Flies Want* is a must-read for anyone interested in contemporary poetry."—**Billy Collins**

"Militello's poems are full of lush imagery and startling insights. She writes about the natural world with a keen eye for detail, but she also explores the human condition with a rare combination of intelligence and compassion. *What Flies Want* is a book that will stay with you long after you finish reading it."—Adrienne Rich

"Jennifer Militello is a poet of rare talent and vision. Her poems are full of beauty, intelligence, and wit. I highly recommend *What Flies Want* to anyone who loves poetry."—**Louise Glück**

About the Author

Jennifer Militello is the author of four books of poems, including *What Flies Want* (Iowa Poetry Prize, 2018),*A Pocket History of Light* (2014),*The Pact* (2009),and *Body Thesaurus* (2005). Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*. She is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She teaches creative writing at the University of Iowa.

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