



POETRY

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What Became My Grieving Ceremony

Cara-Lyn Morgan

Cara-Lyn Morgan joins those young Canadian poets who are driven by family experience to communicate with their pasts in order to inform their futures. Morgan's Métis and Afro-Caribbean heritage drives her to understand the connectivity of her ancestral, cultural roots and the disparate values that shaped her. By revisiting these people and their stories she intends to come to an understanding of how to navigate the world as a "mixed-race" Canadian woman — a process that remains incomplete.

In this collection we discover poems that explore what it means to be a woman who must navigate the world from the duality of a mixed race background.

"Elegant and empathic, this fine book plumbs not only grief, but takes us through its rites: the anticipation of loss and its initial sting; the shouldering of a despair so vivid it hurts to succumb to memory's unheralded quietude. Drawing from her Métis and Trinidadian heritage, Morgan counterpoints the unassuaged suffering of her people with her family's, experiencing them as only one alert person can. Open yourself to these poems, become their host, and live their affirmative message as your own." —John Barton



Cara-Lyn Morgan was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and her family has been on the Canadian prairies for many generations. Her Métis mother hails from Spiritwood, SK and her father came to Saskatchewan as a young immigrant from Trinidad. She is a working writer and painter and a graduate of the University of Victoria's Creative Writing

program. Morgan's work has appeared in a variety of national literary magazines. She works for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and lives in Mississauga, ON. *What Became My Grieving Ceremony* is her first book.

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