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From the Bones Out

By Marisa de los Santos

University of South Carolina Press, United States, 2000.
 Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 215 x 134 mm.
 Language: English . Brand New Book. My lover tells me I am like this place./I tell him what I miss: the slap of leaves/on skin and air that's like a damp embrace. The poems of this debut have a Cinderella-like innocence, transforming ugliness into beauty and waving the wand of well-crafted metaphor over all they encounter. The horrific suicide of a grandfather, a mother's cancer, the mourning for a stillborn child, the potential foreclosure of a neighbor's farm are all recounted with a refined clarity. Yet through it all, de los Santos manages to frame life's traumas with a voice that can seem borrowed from the Stage Manager in *Our Town*: Some years/were fair, but most were bad./The taxes, worse than weevil, tried/to take each dime she had. However, there are also poems, such as *Lo's Gift*, that evoke, through their subtlety and sensuality, the pleasures of the ever-changing consciousness of the female body: I learned myself, bit/ by bit, or maybe I/ should say I dawned/ upon myself, a slow dawning. There are also glamorous poems, including...


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