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--- J.M. Coetzee

"... this book makes it clear that she has grown into a mature and accomplished poet."

--- Linda Pastan

## **CURES INCLUDE TRAVEL**

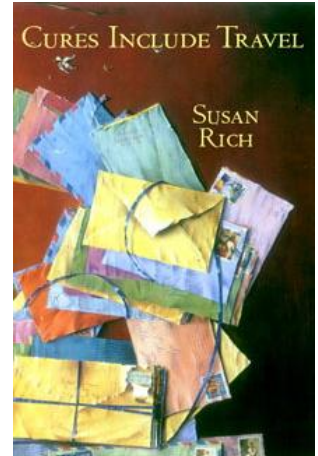
Poems by SUSAN RICH

Published by White Pine Press

As the title **Cures Include Travel** suggests, these are ambitious poems that seek to grab hold of the larger world: a homeless youth in South Africa, a seamstress in Gaza, a Somali woman fleeing civil war. As an election supervisor in Bosnia, a Fulbright Fellow in South Africa, and a human rights trainer in Gaza, Susan Rich has traveled further from home visiting more war torn nations than perhaps any other American poet writing today. In this, her second volume of poems, we witness the aftermath of civil war in Bosnia, the all but extinct Jewish community of Dublin, and meet a man living for over a decade in a Paris airport.

Through her travels and accompanying meditations on finding home, she shares with her reader alternating sides of vulnerability and quiet strength. The 54 poems in this volume move through various external geographies to an inevitable confrontation with the self. In "What She Leaves Unspoken" the poem that opens *Crossing Borders*, the final section of the book, Rich writes "when she is blue, she is not you / but an absent text, an unreliable X" offering up another reason as to why travel may hold such allure.

Although **Cures Include Travel** takes a hard look at human suffering, the language throughout the collection remains lyrical and leans toward transcendence rather than despair. Alternating with the international themes, several poems examine life in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Seattle including "Nisqually 6.8" on surviving the Nisqually earthquake and "Morning Meditation at the Alki Beach Café" concerned with the inevitability of middle age. "The hardest thing of all/would be to choose/ your own life" are the final words Rich leaves us with.



### **Cures Include Travel**

Poems by Susan Rich

White Pine Press • 106 pages • \$14.00 •

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Praise for Cures Include Travel and The Cartographer's  
Tongue Poems of the World

"I admired her talent years ago, and this book makes it clear that she has grown into a mature and accomplished poet."

--- Linda Pastan

"*Cures Include Travel* will take you places you didn't know you wanted to go, and then it will set you down quietly in front of the essential task of being who you are."

--- Pamela Alexander

"From the boldly erotic to the elegiac --- Susan Rich gives us a collection of poems sensual yet exact in their language, generous in the range and power of their emotion."

--- J.M. Coetzee

"Susan Rich writes gorgeous lyrical poetry which so courageously tells us the truth about the world, tells us the world is much larger than we Americans usually like to admit. Her beautiful ear, her fierce attention to detail, her deeply human empathy inspire me and make me glad. I am glad, no --- thrilled --- that there exists such a unique and memorable voice writing today."

--- Ilya Kaminsky

"These poems will wound and haunt you, but the larger knowing they bring is crucial. Rich is a caring citizen of every heart-land."

--- Naomi Shihab Nye

"Susan Rich raises a fine lyric voice concerned with questions of travel. This is a fine and charming debut."

--- Garrett Hongo

## Bio for Susan Rich

Susan Rich is the winner of the PEN USA Literary Award for Poetry as well as the Peace Corps Writers Poetry Award for *The Cartographer's Tongue: Poems of the World*. Her poems have appeared in journals such as *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Harvard Magazine*, *North American Review*, and *Witness*. She has worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger, West Africa, staff person for Amnesty International, an electoral supervisor in Bosnia, and a human rights trainer in Gaza. She taught at the University of Cape Town on a Fulbright Fellowship and now teaches at Highline Community College and in the Antioch University MFA Program in Los Angeles, California. Recent awards include an Artist Trust Fellowship, the Sojourner Poetry Prize, and a Pushcart Prize nomination.

