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"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

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

--- Linda Pastan

CURES INCLUDE TRAVEL

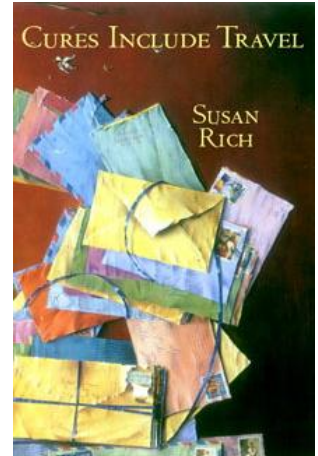
Poems by SUSAN RICH

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 21st 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

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