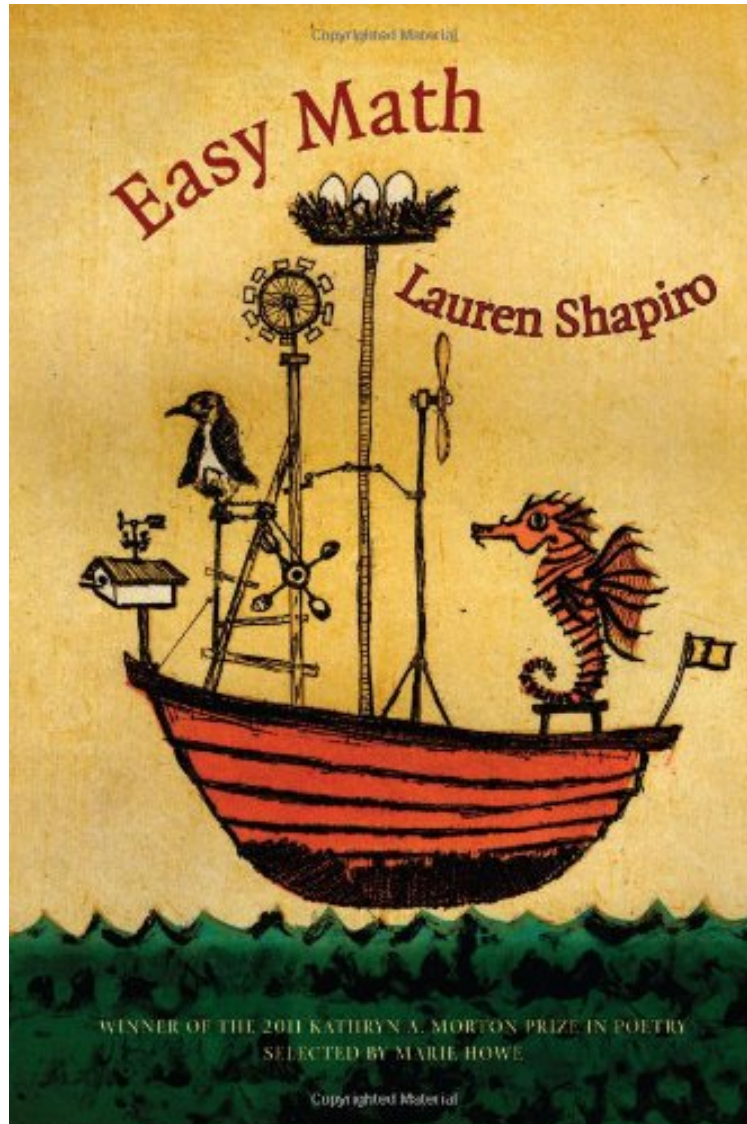


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Easy Math (Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry)

Lauren Shapiro

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#1713699 in Books 2013-02-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.01 x .32 x 6.04l, .32 #File Name: 193674748064 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Lauren Shapiro : Easy Math (Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Easy Math (Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book of poetry. By Rita Shapiro These poems are a delight. Insightful, funny, and a true testament to life as viewed through the eyes of the very talented author.

Selected by Marie Howe for the 2011 Kathryn A. Morton Prize, Easy Math is anxious and exuberant both. Lauren Shapiros poems are Aesop stood on end, wry fables that defy our instinct to find a moral to the story. Instead, she

offers us a gimlet eye to the disappointments of the world, tall tale-telling by turns rickety, defiant, and brave. There are an infinite number of ways to torture the soul with hopefulness Shapiro says, so we settle for ways to survive crooked grins, twisted logic, and equations of jello shots, amusement parks, and post-it notes that never add up. Everyone has something to say / about love and impermanence and waste. She says it better than most."Shapiro specializes in snappy, poignant retorts to the problems of pop culture. Joan Rivers, Lindsay Lohan, and even the wily Jersey Shore crew inhabit her crackling new volume of poems, winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry.... Shapiro guides readers into uncomfortable but evocative settings, from a surreal ESL classroom and plague-ridden Marseilles to a hotel workout room. Imagination does not just take flight here; it rides the airport shuttle bus and connects travelers from different continents."--Booklist"Lauren Shapiro can downshift from the sublime to the profane and back again in less than five seconds. Energy and joy create these metaphors, and if they are in discourse with postmodern malaise, they almost win the argument."Marie Howe

From Booklist Shapiro specializes in snappy, poignant retorts to the problems of pop culture. Joan Rivers, Lindsay Lohan, and even the wily Jersey Shore crew inhabit her crackling new volume of poems, winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry. Celebrities are no mere straw men (or women); Shapiro expertly resists glibness by mixing exaggerated tabloid personalities with vulnerable, civilian observers. Speakers cheerfully mock themselves as well as the conventions of poetry: When I bite into apple, it tastes like apple, says one. The other agrees, Yeah, yeah, its all about / perspective. Shapiro guides readers into uncomfortable but evocative settings, from a surreal ESL classroom and plague-ridden Marseilles to a hotel workout room. Imagination does not just take flight here; it rides the airport shuttle bus and connects travelers from different continents. In Encounter, one of the strongest poems, Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale meet on a hillside to talk about God and fate. The luminary nurses draw some conclusions, but then, in a delightful twist, discover that neither of them is married and make a date for dinner. --Carolyn Alessio Lauren Shapiro writes a smart, funny, richly inhabited poetry of the here and now. May it soon be everywhere and always. James Tate "Full of vim and vinegar, these poems push our faces into their marvelous bouquets. Constantly refreshed with alarming strangeness, Easy Math veers between irked humor and world-weary awe. Remember when we all got out of school for the fire alarm? This is even better."Dean Young"Lauren Shapiro can downshift from the sublime to the profane and back again in less than five seconds. Energy and joy create these metaphors, and if they are in discourse with postmodern malaise, they almost win the argument."Marie Howe This fearless poet isn't afraid to name something beautiful. And she's not shy about how we humans have thoughts, opinions and feelings; she brings an astonishingly acute precision to bear on so many of our less than perfect ways. She registers our misapprehensions and turns our imaginations up several registers. I love reading this book, and getting to know this poet. Dara Wier