

Nigh-no-place - Jen Hadfield

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Winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize. The language of Jen Hadfield's poetry is one of incantation and secular praise. Her first book, *Almanacs*, was a traveller's litany, featuring a road movie in poems set in the north of Scotland. *Nigh-No-Place* is the liturgy of a poet passionately aware of the natural world. Hadfield began her new book on the hoof, travelling across Canada, hungry for new landscapes. She took epic routes: the railway from Halifax to Vancouver and the Dempster Highway, 740 km of gravel road, ending in the Arctic oil towns of Inuvik and Tuktoyuktuk. But it is in Shetland that she becomes acutely aware of her own voice. *Nigh-No-Place* reflects the breadth of ground she's covered. *Ten-minute Break Haiku* is her response to working in a fish factory. *Paternoster* is the Lord's Prayer uttered by a draught-horse. *Prenatal Polar Bear* takes place in Churchill, Manitoba, surrounded by tundra. *Nigh-No-Place* is a revelation: jaunty, energetic, iconoclastic even devil-may-care she is a remarkably original poet near the beginning of what is obviously going to be a distinguished career. Andrew Motion. A zestful poet of the road Jen Hadfield conjures poems of great spirit and imaginative daring from the northern landscapes. Lively, youthful and full of the joy of language. Kathleen Jamie. Onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhyme and a smattering of Shetland dialect supply Hadfield's world with a rickety music: claws on tarmac, a rock-chip hitting a windscreen, a waterproof crackling like a roasting rack of lamb which she orchestrates with a variety of forms including prose poems, incantations, spells and a prayer. When much contemporary poetry has about it a whiff of the coterie, Hadfield's refreshing voice carries all the way from the top of Scotland to blow some of the dust off British verse. Stephen Knight, *Independent*. Author: Hadfield, Jen Publisher: Bloodaxe Books Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: *Nigh-No-Place* Pages: 00064 (Encrypted EPUB) On Sale: 2008-02-27 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781852247935 Category: Poetry : General

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