

Foreword Review POETRY

## Santa Tarantula

## Jordan Pérez

Notre Dame Press (Feb 1, 2024) Softcover \$18.00 (80pp) 978-0-268-20752-6

Do perps read poetry? Is poetry's *perp*ose to take aim at the malevolence in all of us? Jordan Pérez would like a word with you. An expert in online safety and childhood sexual abuse prevention, she has been published in *Poetry International, Mississippi Review, Cutthroat*, and elsewhere.

## The Glory Has Departed

My mother sucks sardines from the tin, absorbs them into her own soft body. You can almost disappear sideways, she says, standing before the hotel mirror in knee socks, broaches clinging to her slip like cicadas. We take a train to Cinque Terre, scatter fists of loam from the windows, insist that the earth absolve our skin. My mother rubs flaxseed oil into my palms: this oil of purity she prays will cleanse me in the Italian sun. But the glory has departed from my body and cannot be gathered back. We buy fists of grapes at an open air market, partake of the blood. I watch her after through the shower glass, smell the thick oleanders wilt, sense her wild mourning, see that she has shaved off all her hair.

## MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2024)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The publisher of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the publisher for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Source: https://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/santa-tarantula/