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# PLAYING MONSTER :: SEICHE

diana arterian

- EDITORS' SELECTION FOR THE 1913 PRESS FIRST BOOK PRIZE -



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“Arterian weaves a family narrative of devastating clarity from letters, found text, memories, and more in her striking debut... The text, with its found-text poems and nonlinear sense of time, could feel fragmented but never does, remaining instead at an emotional precipice.”

- PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, STARRED REVIEW

“[Arterian] renders terror in language so plain, concise and taut—it thrums with all that’s held in suspension, in the blank space between blows. The act of writing—her record—is itself the antidote. By looking terror right in the face and saying what she sees, she puts it under her power. This achievement, what she does here—it makes other writing seem like child’s play.”

- ALLISON COBB

“Diana Arterian’s *Playing Monster :: Seiche* does not play, it mourns—for the astringing of family in times of trauma and for the liquidation of family in times of abuse. The pathos in here animates me and the writing hunts me. And so I gratefully surrender.”

- LILY HOANG

“*Playing Monster :: Seiche* is a devastating classic. It’s like reading a detective story or ‘thriller’ but with real pain, real consequences, and purity. Art provides a cushion, and the reader is grateful for the ‘interludes,’ the spaces between the brief stanzas. It’s a good book and I’m glad that I read it—it is testimony, and one feels something cleansing has been accomplished.”

- ALICE NOTLEY

“Diana Arterian’s poetry is shockingly almost-gentle as it speaks about family violence and childhood terror. In sparse lyrics and tiny knife-like narratives, memory gasps itself out of language and into the white space—into the awful blanks that such searing language digs out. Stone to stone across a life, this never stops. Arterian’s poetry is ferociously unblinking, ferociously variable, and ferociously tender.”

- SARAH VAP



Diana Arterian is the author of *With Lightness & Darkness and Other Brief Pieces* (Essay Press), *Death Centos* (Ugly Duckling Presse), and co-editor of *Among Margins: Critical & Lyrical Writing on Aesthetics* (Ricochet). A Poetry Editor at Noemi Press, her creative work has been recognized with fellowships from the Banff Centre, Caldera, Vermont Studio Center, and Yaddo, and her poetry, essays, and translations have appeared in *Asymptote*, *BOMB*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Boston Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among others. This is her first full-length collection. Born and raised in Arizona, she currently resides in Los Angeles where she is a doctoral candidate in Literature & Creative Writing at the University of Southern California.

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