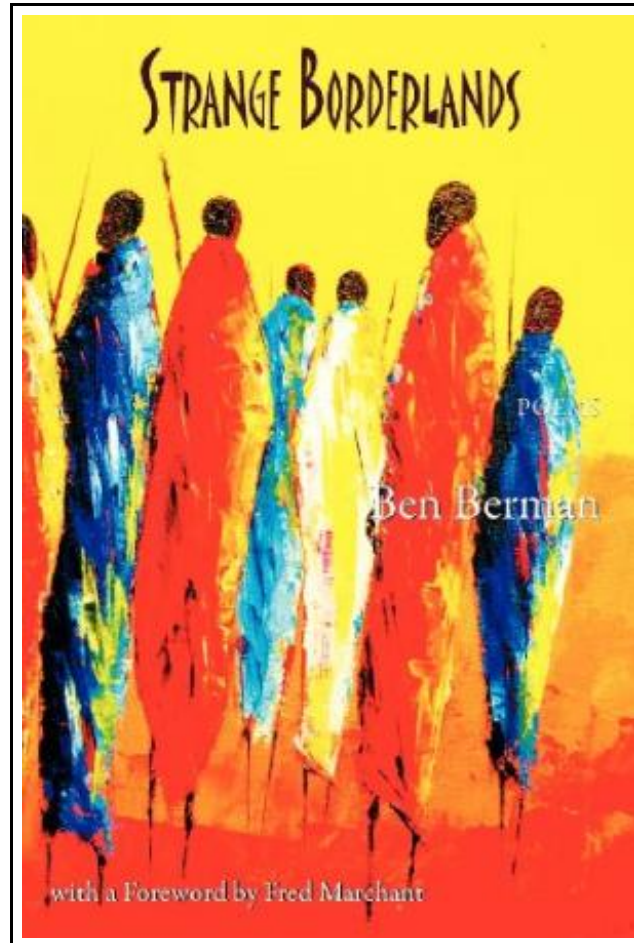


Strange Borderlands



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Reviews

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Able Muse Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 104 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.5in. Strange Borderlands, Ben Bermans first full-length collection, counterpoises insights with uncertainties while chronicling the poets immersion in a new culture. In compelling metrical, free verse and prose poems, Berman provides a vivid narrative of exotic adventures, especially his Peace Corps service in Zimbabwe the people, the land, and his struggling with the blurred lines of where things end on his return home. This distinctive collection can go from humorous to heartbreaking, and is spellbinding from start to finish a rare achievement. PRAISE FOR STRANGE BORDERLANDS: Ben Bermans wonderful first book, Strange Borderlands, is a masterful study in the power and limits of empathy, of respect for difference in tension with the urgent need for common ground. Beyond his formal and stylistic range, linguistic flexibility, eye for detail, irrepressible wit and powerful feeling, whats most impressive about this terrific book is Bermans inclusive generous spirit, the deadly serious imaginative play he exercises in every line of every poem. This is a book to cherish. Alan Shapiro These are poems that weigh, consider, and restore some flesh-and-blood meaning to the experience of multiculturalism, a word so overused it is often flattened out to a platitude or piety. But not in this book. Fred Marchant (from the Foreword) Ben Bermans lyric poems set in Zimbabwe dig deep into the casual and the casualty of daily life: the hammer striking the sheeps head, the sustenance that follows; disciplinary beatings that students, giggly and protesting, could count and count on to fade. Unassuming but wise, compassionate yet wildly, unpredictably funny at times, Berman delivers to us escalating hardships that somehow elevated us toward the sacred; the pathetic harvest and sweetness that comes from the least likely of places. This least likely of...



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