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George Elliott Clarke – Review Seven Nights with the Chinese Zodiac by Anna Yin



LIVE ENCOUNTERS BOOKS, AUGUST 2020

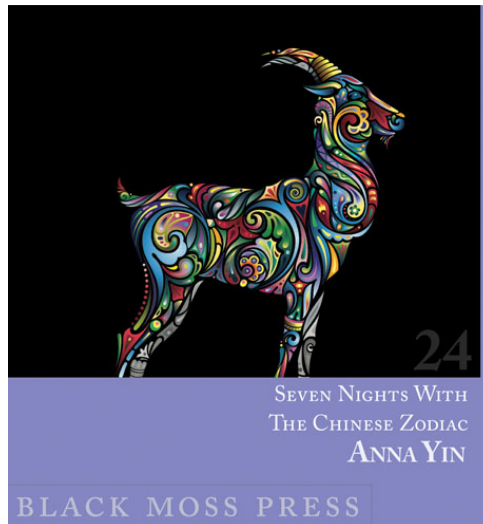


GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE / ANNA YIN



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In another poem, the speaker says, "You are tired of his / molding, over and over, / thrashing, nailing / into you." There's a fierce feminism here, reinforced by readings of Dot Livesay and Dame Atwood. Though it's tricky following Yin's wicked, impressionistic juxtapositions, her painterly imagery is deliciously lustrous.

Yin is endlessly perspicacious, endlessly compelling: "The autumn gusts feel warm / as if it's spring... / last night by accident I cut my finger... / slowly, on the rice paper, red roses grew." She brings to Canadian poetry a sense of classicism and aestheticism and minimalism, all nicely mixed up with sensuality.

Yin's bravura poems – so exquisite and extraordinary – merit bravo upon bravo.

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The 4th Poet Laureate of Toronto (2012-15) and the 7th Parliamentary/Canadian Poet Laureate (2016-17), **George Elliott Clarke** is a revered artist in song, drama, fiction, screenplay, essays, and poetry. Born in Windsor, Nova Scotia, in 1960, Clarke was educated at the University of Waterloo, Dalhousie University, and Queen's University. Clarke is also a pioneering scholar of African-Canadian literature. A professor of English at the University of Toronto, Clarke has taught at Duke, McGill, the University of British Columbia, and Harvard. He holds eight honorary doctorates, plus appointments to the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada at the rank of Officer. His recognitions include the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Fellows Prize, the Governor-General's Award for Poetry, the National Magazine Gold Award for Poetry, the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction, the Eric Hoffer Book Award for Poetry (US), and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award. Photo Credit of George Elliott Clarke : Harvard University.

Anna Yin was **Mississauga's Inaugural Poet Laureate** (<https://culture.mississauga.ca/content/anna-yin>)(2015-2017) and has authored five collections of poetry. Her poems/translations have appeared at ARC Poetry, New York Times, China Daily, CBC Radio, World Journal etc. Anna won the 2005 Ted Plantos Memorial Award, two MARTYs, two scholarships from West Chester University Poetry Conference, three grants from OAC and 2013 Professional Achievement Award from CPAC. She performed her poetry on Parliament Hill and has been featured at 2015 Austin International Poetry Festival and 2017 National poetry month project etc. She teaches Poetry Alive at schools, colleges and libraries. Her website: <http://www.annapoetry.com/> (<http://www.annapoetry.com/>)

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About me

(<http://www.about.me/markulyseas>)