

Maureen Thorson *Applies to Oranges*

ADVANCED PRAISE FOR THE BOOK:

"Thorson is an orphaned Victorian trapped in a robot spider who wants badly to sell us madeleines woven of fake hypnotic oranges, but all time has converged in these lines, the astronavigation is cluttered with satellites, her suicidal flower arrangements can't be decoded, the 'signal / fail[s], decay[s] into ornament,' and real grief of lost love and the motion picture clips of it we project onto foreign scenery make us realize that 'the radio plays /different stations, and you have no radio.' The commerce of fictional, degenerating visual language and memory confuses us and comforts us as we—as Thorson—wrestle with its insidious, satisfying infestation of our individual and collective experience. This is wonderful, deeply, and superficially felt work."

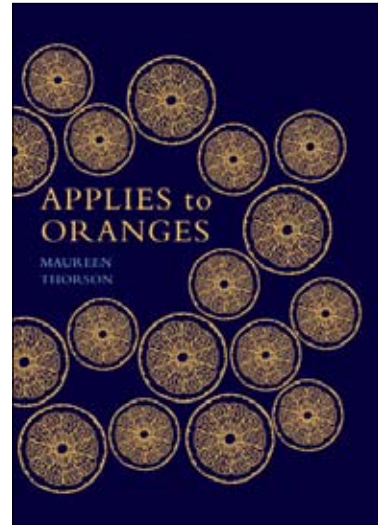
—CATHY EISENHOWER

"Maureen Thorson's first full-length book is a necessary satellite signal made of a uniquely singular ache and echo. She deftly performs a precise dissection of heartbreak's timeless ability to blow open the universe of our lives and allow our fascinating agonies to burst into being. *Applies to Oranges* is a collection that is, at once, a mythic tale of loss and a microscopic look into the delicate beauty of broken things. These wonderful poems demand that you linger in their haunting world, and as Thorson says, 'breathe slowly, if at all.'"

—ADA LIMON

"Maureen Thorson's narrator addresses a former love (who may as well be us) in a series of beautiful sonnetlike pieces that cohere in a sequence like shards in a mosaic—some bits darker, some brighter, each tight. "I want to diagram the light that shines out through the holes you pricked in me," she says. "Instead, I retract into extravagant gestures, diaries, bonfires, the psycho gloss of wilted blossoms, dead-eyed stamens stitched in rows." Thorson's *Applies to Oranges* sings and surprises in both new and timeless ways, as love's decay blooms gorgeously and is borne away by dissipating spiders."

—SHANNA COMPTON



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maureen Thorson is a poet, publisher, and book designer living in Washington, D.C. She is the author of the chapbooks *Twenty Questions for the Drunken Sailor*, *Mayport*, *Novelty Act*, among many others. She is the publisher and editor of Big Game Books, a small press dedicated to emerging poets. Maureen is the co-curator of the In Your Ear reading series at the D.C. Arts Center and the founder of NaPoWriMo, an annual project in which poets attempt to write a poem a day for the month of April.

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