Oliver Dybing

Felo de se

The debut chapbook by Portland-based poet Oliver Dybing. In poems alternately heartbreaking and elusive, Dybing explores the emotional state of melancholic or profoundly nostalgic longing for a beloved yet absent something or someone, a state often associated with a repressed understanding that one might never encounter the object of longing ever again.

"Maybe you grew up on a bus or the back seat of a car, always on the way to someone who was never really there. [Dybing’s] lyricism plots the route, and it’s reliable. You thump with them just like years thump you, and maybe you grew up to find yourself in charge of the Big Journey, too. Maybe you are lucky enough to read these maps and like [Dybing] will see a way to wipe the vanity of hiding your head in your hands when you’re alone off the table. There is no farce here. Only fools rush in, but poems like these smack the fool off your fool face and help you stay the course. Travel-worthy work like this is real, not fadeaway.

—DENA RASH GUZMAN

Oliver Dybing is a poet and conceptual artist residing in the Pacific Northwest. He thinks very deeply and not at all. His work has been featured in Upshod Quills, Spare Change, Second Factory, and Zaum Press.