



Draft of a Letter (Phoenix Poets)

James Longenbach

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From *Second Draft*:

What other people learn

From birth,

Betrayal,

I learned late.

My soul perched

On an olive branch

Combing itself,

Waving its plumes. I said

Being mortal,

I aspire to

Mortal things.

I need you,

Said my soul,

If you're telling the truth.

Draft of a Letter is a book about belief—not belief in the unknowable but belief in what seems bewilderingly plain. Pondering the bodies we inhabit, the words we speak, these poems discover infinitude in the most familiar places. The revelation is disorienting and, as a result, these poems talk to themselves, revise themselves, fashioning a dialogue between self and soul that opens outward to include other voices, lovers, children, angels, and ghosts. For James Longenbach, great distance makes the messages we send sweeter. To be divided from ourselves is never to be alone. “If the kingdom is in the sky,” says the body to the soul, “Birds will get there before you.” “In time,” says the awakening soul, “I liked my second / Body better / Than the first.” To live, these poems insist, is to arise every day to the strange magnificence of the people and places we thought we knew best. *Draft of a Letter* is an unsettled and radiant paradiso, imagined in the death-shadowed, birth-haunted middle of a long life.

Praise for *Fleet River*

“A sensibility this cogent, this subtle and austere is rare; even rarer is its proof that poetry still flows through all things and transforms all things in the process.”—Carol Muske-Dukes, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

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From reader reviews:

Joshua Lippert:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book Draft of a Letter (Phoenix Poets) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Sandra Lowe:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both daily life and work. So , if we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not only a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually Draft of a Letter (Phoenix Poets).

Betty Serrano:

Many people spending their time by playing outside with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Draft of a Letter (Phoenix Poets) which is keeping the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's see.

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