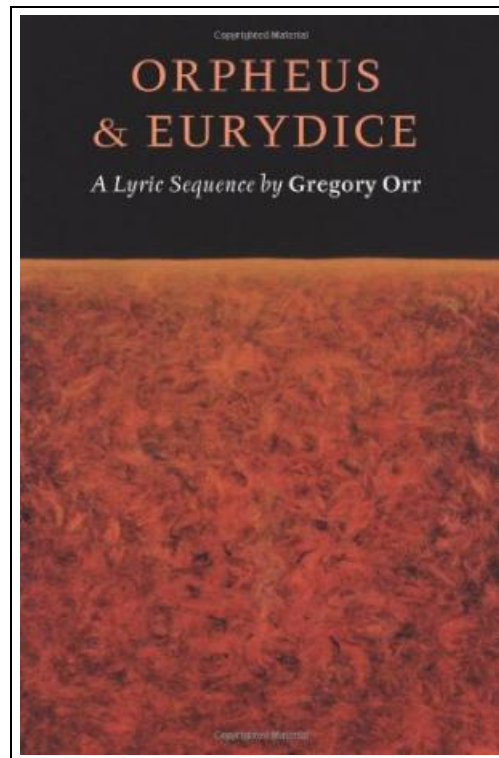


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Copper Canyon Press, 2001. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. How can I celebrate love/ now that I know what it does? So begins this booklength lyric sequence which reinhabits and modernizes the story of Orpheus, the mythic master of the lyre (and father of lyric poetry) and Eurydice, his lover who died and whom Orpheus tried to rescue from Hades. Gregory Orr uses as his touchstone the assertion that myths attempt to narrate a whole human experience, while at the same time serving a purpose which resists explanation. Through poems of passionate and obsessive erotic love, Orr has dramatized the anguished intersection of infinite longings and finite lives and, in the process, explores the very sources of poetry. When Eurydice saw him huddled in a thick cloak, she should have known he was alive, the way he shivered beneath its useless folds. But what she saw was the usual: a stranger confused in a new world. And when she touched him on the shoulder, it was nothing personal, a kindness he misunderstood. To guide someone through the halls of hell is not the same as love. A reader unfamiliar with Orr s work may be surprised, at first, by the richness of both action and visual detail that his succinct, spare poems convey. Lyricism can erupt in the midst of desolation. --Boston Globe When Gregory Orr s *Burning the Empty Nest* appear, *Publisher s Weekly* praised it as an auspicious debut for a gifted newcomer.he already demonstrates a superior control of his medium. *Kirkus Review* celebrated it as an almost unbearably powerful first book of poetry and enthusiastically reviewed his second book *Gathering the Bones Together*, noting that Orr s power is the eloquence of understatement. Most recently, his *City of Salt* was a finalist for...

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