

Praise for Head's Poetry

Lost on Purpose is both a travelogue and a declaration of love: it begins with the ecstatic image of man playing for the sheer ardor of music to the audience of roosters and air and river-water. It ends with a lyric that is also an elegy for all those years without the beloved. And in between these pages is the journey: Karen Head travels through time, through geography, and most of all through our emotional frontiers.

This is a book of very beautiful poems, very humane and musical lyrics, yes. But it also creates a poetics that asks us not just to cross borders but to go through them, smashing those borders. Which is to say: this book of lyrics contains more fierce energy and emotional punch than most novels.

Lost on Purpose doesn't just ask what it means to be happy in our miserable time, but *sings* it. There is a fearlessness in these lyrics, a bravery and honesty that is uncommon in this callous age. And, there is also wisdom: "I concede finding each other late was for the best. / Still, sometimes I mourn the years we never had / even the ones that would have destroyed us." This is a book of poems to live with.

--Ilya Kaminsky

There is nothing lost about the poems in this book - each one is an exquisite work, yes, but also each is filled with profound pleasure. The scope is global, panoramic, always expansive, yet one of the true achievements in *Lost on Purpose* by Karen Head is the ravishing intimacy on every page, in every line. Poems like these help me to better understand the world, my place in it, to find my way.

--Paul Guest

About *Lost on Purpose*, by Karen Head

What a delight to read a collection in which new love, new landscapes, and renewed creativity all blossom unexpectedly in late middle age. "And now in age I bud again," wrote Herbert; "Even at our age this is fun," answers Head across the centuries. Made all the sweeter by past suffering and the knowledge that time cannot be stopped, these poems renew the reader's faith in possibility.

--Julie Kane

"In one of his songs, Neil Young says that longing for lost love is "like leaving Paris for the first time." That phrase could serve as the epigraph to Karen Head's *My Paris Year*, a suite of poems about loss, renewal and acceptance of grief as the wages of love. Plainspoken, straightforward, and pitch perfect in tone, these poems strike at the heart of how we reinvent ourselves in midlife, craving danger as well as safety, discovering who we are by imagining our lives as someone else's."

--Alan Shapiro

Karen Head's *Sassing* creates a perfect balance of lyric and narrative impulses. Girls born of Southern mothers will shudder with recognition at the earlier generation's insistence on maintaining appearances. Survivors of domestic violence will cheer the independent spirit that emerges here. Any reader who feels sustained by song and narrative will admire the composure, wit, and delicious detail in this autobiography not just of a poet, but also of a place and time."

--Marilyn Kallet

What a pleasure it is to have this new book from Karen Head, whose distinctive voice offers us a rich counterpoint to Southern male voices such as James Dickey and David Bottoms. These poems enter the experiences of women and compel us to feel the textures of their lives. This is work that is strong and true. It shares with us a 'prayer for what cannot be destroyed.'

--Judson Mitcham

Praise for Head's Academic Non-Fiction

Boeva, Yana. *The London School of Economics Book Review*.

The book shows how personal experience and practice can be a counter-balance to broader narratives on technosolutionism. Head's eloquent and intricate analysis of two key books on the future of education with technology shaped by her own practical experience debunks the flat and glorifying picture of MOOCs. By showing how a professor in a top-ranked, well-funded university equipped with state-of-the-art technology was exposed to personal and institutional struggles, Head's book asks as to the appeal for those with less financial and infrastructural privileges. Are MOOCs democratising or marginalising education? Perhaps we have to wait for another book from the perspective of those taking MOOCs to know better. *Disrupt This!* is a book that everyone interested in the subtleties of Higher Education and in the cost of technological changes should read.

Reisz, Matthew. *Times Higher Education*.

New and noteworthy... Head's book challenges head-on "the simplistic technological optimism that drives much of the thinking on the future of education and which waves away reasonable objections as Luddism".

Seibert, Graham. *"San Francisco Review of Books"*.

A totally straight assessment of the realities of Massive Online Open Courses, the new fad in higher education...a gripping book.

Radical Teacher

Head delivers a highly readable, deeply thoughtful, and pedagogically serious look at the use and abuse of technology in academia. Even as she unmaskes the ludicrous rhetoric and limited platforms of MOOCs, Head remains determined to push pedagogues to the center of technological development in higher education. The disrupters, left unchecked, will wreak havoc, not through any of their promised radical changes, but by redirecting resources to ineffective tools and shiny toys, and away from the liberatory processes of teaching and learning.

Daniel F. Chambliss, Hamilton College

A lively, often entertaining—but deeply troubling—tale of the MOOC mania that recently gripped higher education, told by an insider who has lived it and who really understands the implications.

Mark Guzdial, University of Michigan

Disrupt This! gave me a new way to think about MOOCs and the hype around disruptive technologies in education. I often think in terms of data. Karen shows how to critique the rhetoric — the data are less important if the argument they are supporting is already broken.