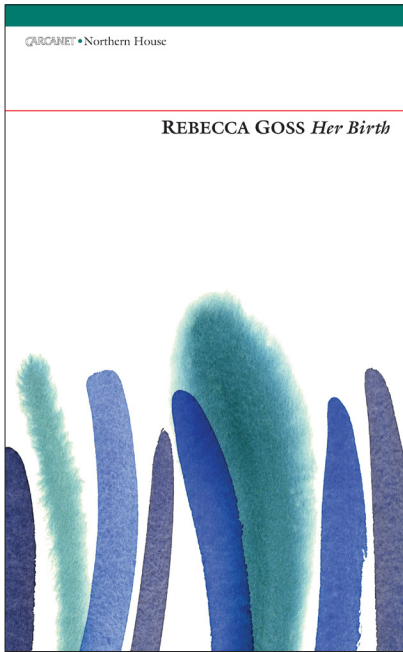


Reading Group Guide



Her Birth by Rebecca Goss

RRP £9.95

72 pages

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**Shortlisted for the 2013 Forward Prize
for Best Collection**

In 2007 Rebecca Goss's newborn daughter Ella was diagnosed with Severe Ebstein's Anomaly, a rare and incurable heart condition. She lived for sixteen months. *Her Birth* is a book-length sequence of poems beginning with Ella's birth, her short life and her death, and ending with the joys and complexities that come with the birth of another child. Goss navigates the difficult territory of grief and loss in poems that are spare, tender and haunting: 'Going home, back down / the river road, will be a foreign route without her'.

Possible Topics for Discussion

- What attitude does the speaker have to doctors and hospitals?
- How do the physical details of Ella's life inform our view of her? How do the physical details of Rebecca's life inform our view of her?
- How important is a sense of place in this book?
- To what extent is this a book about memory?
- How does the author represent the affect of her daughter's death on other people (for example, her husband)?
- How do the death and memory of Ella affect the author's perspective on the birth of another child?