



gifts

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The eponymous first part of mclennan's new book consists of fifty "gifts" each centred around words, phrases, or "glyphs" of language that initiate and replicate their own fractal transformations: some remain simply found fragments about which other words and phrases unfold, some lose themselves into pieces that we forget were once found, some mirror themselves in other forms, others become simply something other in language as it moves both with and away from them, each creating a syntax of meaning that is specific to its own occasion. All are addressed to the poet's intimates—two dozen are, significantly, valentines—the rest admonitions, remembrances, messages and homages made public by the readers' acts of witness.

In part two, "incomplete," we are invited to watch the poet robbed of his intent as unexpected words interrupt his texts, turning declaratives into interrogatives, questions into requests: "would you leave (accidental) behind"—each poem an apparent loop of closure, but one that signifies its "failure" or incompleteness by ending, or starting over again, with its first [title] word. In part three, "weightless," the poet frees the signifier from the weight of the signified. He brackets and strikes through what we think of as "known" in the "real world" that is always outside language, because it is [named].

What unifies or makes these four parts into a book are the personae the poet assigns to the lover: in the first as an intimate; in the second as an interruption of the determinative self—the other that brings us back to the self; in the third as an undefinable and thereby unattainable weightlessness; and finally as the gravitational pull of the landscape itself—all of them "unfinished" at the speaker's age, as the title of part four implies: "[sex at thirty-eight] unfinished shield notes: letters to g."

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From reader reviews:

Vincent Erickson:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book called gifts? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

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