

NIGHTBOAT BOOKS

PRESS RELEASE

CROSSLIGHT FOR YOUNGBIRD

ASIYA WADUD

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Nightboat Books

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An urgent and vital debut collection of poems that mixes ekphrasis with reportage to draw a new narrative of our present-day migration crises

Crosslight for Youngbird explores the slipperiness of borders, as well as borders' tentacles: mother tongue, language and mastery, citizenship and nationality, migration and flight. These poems are concerned with the demands we make on our body, the limits of those demands, and ultimately, how everyone inhabits space.

"According to the principles of the distribution of light, or, God's will, a person interested in the future must account for each flicker or movement of the enclosures that engage and separate us from and with one another. Asiya's work takes, indeed, a bird's eye view. I think it is possible to believe in the invocation of the wide view." — **SIMONE WHITE**

"The aching beauty of *Crosslight for Youngbird* by Asiya Wadud will slay you ten times over. Her sentences fill up the mouth like water. The water is an invasive storm that refuses to relent, overwhelming our whole senses of self--these (mostly) prose poems, looping and voluminous and necessarily incantatory like a prayer. To hold a whole world of loss is as impossible as the realities behind the poems themselves. Yet, impossibly, Wadud, like Laszlo Krasznahorkai, makes a demanding syntax that strokes those loss-wounds, inflames them, and becomes soft balm. *Crosslight for Youngbird* is phenomenal. It is like no other book I've ever read. It will leave you breathless." — **DAWN LUNDY MARTIN**

"This strong and sensitive book, *Crosslight for Youngbird*, by Asiya Wadud is crafted, timely, caring. Now, when we may feel overwhelmed with the litany of painful stories about our most vulnerable in the world everyday, Asiya's poems offer us a way in. This heartfelt work presents a more profound understanding of the harmed, resilient, resigned. Wadud's sparse, immersive language puts questions into high relief:

"What would we do if we found ourselves lost?", "What would we do if we found ourselves?" — **TRACIE MORRIS**

ASIYA WADUD is a writer and third grade teacher. She is the author of the chapbook *we, too, are but the fold*. Every Wednesday, she teaches English to new immigrants and refugees. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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