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Requiem

by Teresa Carmody with an Introduction by David Ulin Les Figues Press ISBN 0-9766371-3-8 56 pp. / \$15.00 US

Publication date: October 2005 Distributed by: Small Press Distribution

REQUIEM by Teresa Carmody is a "folk opera, a lament for the unexamined life," writes editor and author David Ulin in his Introduction. In this short collection of fiction, a lonely man plainchants for the waitress he once stalked, a sonless father serenades a fatherless son, and a bereft family gathers to bury a parent, providing an aching chorus of what is left. Carmody uses Biblical language to pierce the callous and bruised souls of these lost, and sometimes found, small-town Michiganders. In her raw spare stories, Carmody creates, says Ulin," art as observation, a literature constructed of the most minute details, a lens that allows us to *see*."

Praise for REQUIEM

"Tone is often a stumbling-block for young writers (or any writer) but Teresa Carmody has boldly confronted the challenge by cultivating a voice straightforward yet smoky with homegrown dreams and griefs. It's a voice out of a backyard burning bush, a Midwest scriptural mist: frank, fierce and fidgety, and most emphatically her own."

— Carol Muske-Dukes, author of *Sparrow*

"[Requiem] operates out of an entirely American idiom, in which faith and credulity, spiritual yearning and the pettiness of human desire, bleed together, until often we're not exactly sure just were we stand."

— David L. Ulin, editor LA Times Book Review

"[Requiem is] Joyce's understanding of "The Dead" brought to North America's Midwest."

— Nuala Archer, author of From a Mobile Home

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Teresa Carmody's work has appeared in *PoetsWest*, *Stolen Purse*, *Roar: Women's Studies Journal, For Here or To Go, TrenchArt: Material* and 4th Street. Originally from Michigan, she currently lives in Los Angeles, where she is the editor of Les Figues Press.