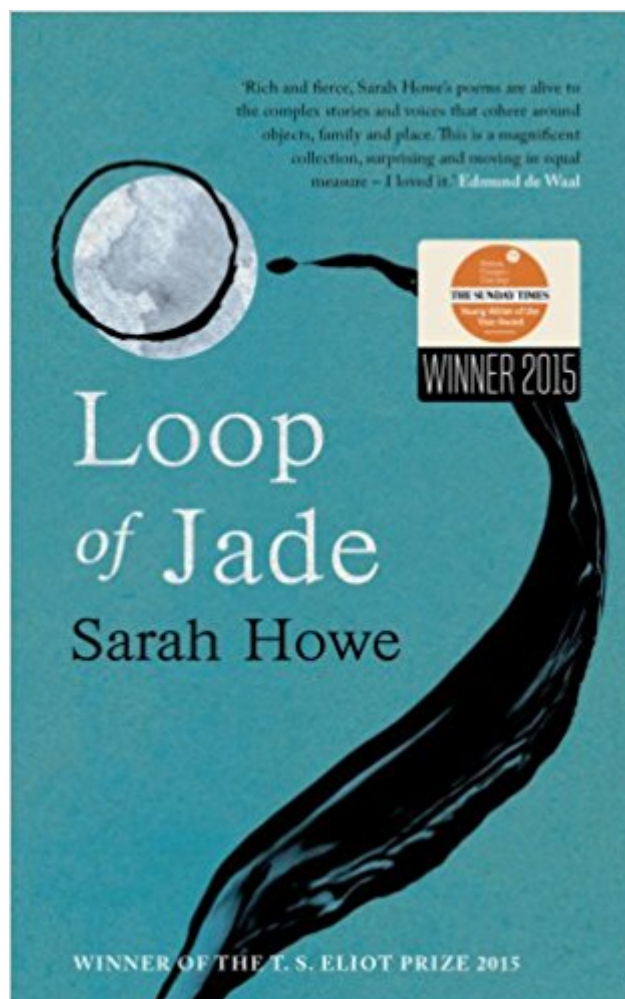


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Loop Of Jade



Synopsis

Introducing an unmistakable new voice in British poetry, the first collection by Sarah Howe, shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection 2015. There is a Chinese proverb that says: "It is more profitable to raise geese than daughters." But geese, like daughters, know the obligation to return home. In her exquisite first collection, Sarah Howe explores a dual heritage, journeying back to Hong Kong in search of her roots. With extraordinary range and power, the poems build into a meditation on hybridity, intermarriage, and love—what meaning we find in the world, in art, and in each other. Crossing the bounds of time, race, and language, this is an enthralling exploration of self and place, of migration and inheritance, and introduces an unmistakable new voice in British poetry.

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Customer Reviews

One of the most prestigious (and financially rewarding) prizes in poetry is the Poetry Book Society's T.S. Eliot Prize. Founded in 1953 by T.S. Eliot and several friends to "propagate the art of poetry," the Poetry Book Society is based in the United Kingdom and draws interest from all over the English-speaking world. The prize, created in 1993, provides 20,000 pounds (about \$30,000) to the winner and 1,500 pounds (about \$2,250) to each of the other nine shortlisted nominees. The 2015 shortlist was impressive, including such stellar poets as Mark Doty, Sean O'Brien and Claudia Rankine. All 10 nominees participated in a program of readings in London before the winner was announced. This year's winner was Sarah Howe for her first collection of

poetry, "Loop of Jade." It's a beautiful collection of 37 poems, filled with precision, imagery, and flat-out beauty. In many of the poems, Howe explores her dual cultural ancestry "she was born in 1983 in Hong Kong, the daughter of an English father and a Chinese mother. The family moved to the UK when she was a child. Using both prose poems and free-verse, Howe explores her inheritance. The title poem, for example, is her mother talking about growing up in deprivation in a Chinese tenement. She writes: "I can never know this place. Its scoop of rice in a chink-rimmed bowl, its daily thinning soup." She explains this loss as a fact as opposed to a lament, which has the curious result of emphasizing her separation from her heritage. That "separateness" is especially poignant in "Earthward," one of the shorter poems in the collection.

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