



Where the words end and my body begins

By Amber Dawn

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Award-winning novelist and memoirist Amber Dawn reveals a gutsy lyrical sensibility in her debut poetry collection: a collection of glosa poems written as an homage to and an interaction with queer poets such as Gertrude Stein, Christina Rossetti, and Adrienne Rich. By doing so, Dawn delves deeper into the themes of trauma, memory, and unblushing sexuality that define her work.

Amber Dawn is the author of the Lambda Award-winning novel *Sub Rosa* and the memoir *How Poetry Saved My Life* (winner of the Vancouver Book Award). Her other awards include the Writers' Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize.

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Where the words end and my body begins By Amber Dawn Bibliography

- Rank: #1325077 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-04-06
- Released on: 2015-04-06
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

Revel in the way Amber Dawn's hard femme survivor poetics create testimony bridges between queer survivor poets then and now, mapping a cartography you can tuck in your pocket, reminding you of where we've been. —Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, author of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence In Activist Communities* and *Love Cake*

You'll be sweetened, entranced and scared in equal measure by Amber Dawn's glosas. This is a wordsmith at the height of her powers. You'll have to read these again and again, just to be sure the gorgeous is real. —Jane Eaton Hamilton, author of *Love Will Burst into a Thousand Shapes* and *Hunger*

Amber Dawn rebuilds her glosa poems by constructing them on quotations from queer, gender-creative, feminist, and/or survivor writers. Dawn uses repetition as a method of regeneration to revitalize the seemingly strict structures of the glosa form and to transform her poems into something powerful and subversive. —CV2

In this collection, Amber Dawn reveals much about how art can help us rise from the ashes of trauma, whether what we know is addiction, abuse or the cost of being unapologetically queer. —*Daily Xtra*

In your face, yet tightly, beautifully crafted ... A bravura performance -- an insightful reading for poetry lovers and more. —*Library Journal*

Fearless, raw, and sassy, Dawn's glosas speak to female survival through all its nasty incarnations -- depression, abuse, subjugation, marginalization. Her poems hit the pavement running and they are loud with truth-telling and raging. —*Vancouver Sun*

A rich, rewarding set of stories about queer identity, surviving abuse, sex positivity and personal identity. —*Autostraddle*

Highly political yet non-dogmatic, these poems are a reminder of what really matters: community. Amber Dawn positions herself in the context of a long line of artists, poets, and activists who matter to her. —*Plenitude*

The natural world may be traditional subject matter and the glosa form may be over six centuries old, but Amber Dawn effectively uses both to enrich the present with the past, reminding us to always remember our roots. —*subTerrain*

About the Author

Amber Dawn is a writer, filmmaker, and performance artist, and the author of the Lambda Award-winning novel *Sub Rosa* and the memoir *How Poetry Saved My Life* (winner of the Vancouver Book Award). She is also editor of *Fist of the Spider Woman: Tales of Fear and Queer Desire* and co-editor of *With a Rough Tongue: Femmes Write Porn*. She has an MFA in Creative Writing (UBC) and was the 2012 winner of the Writers' Trust of Canada Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT writers.

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