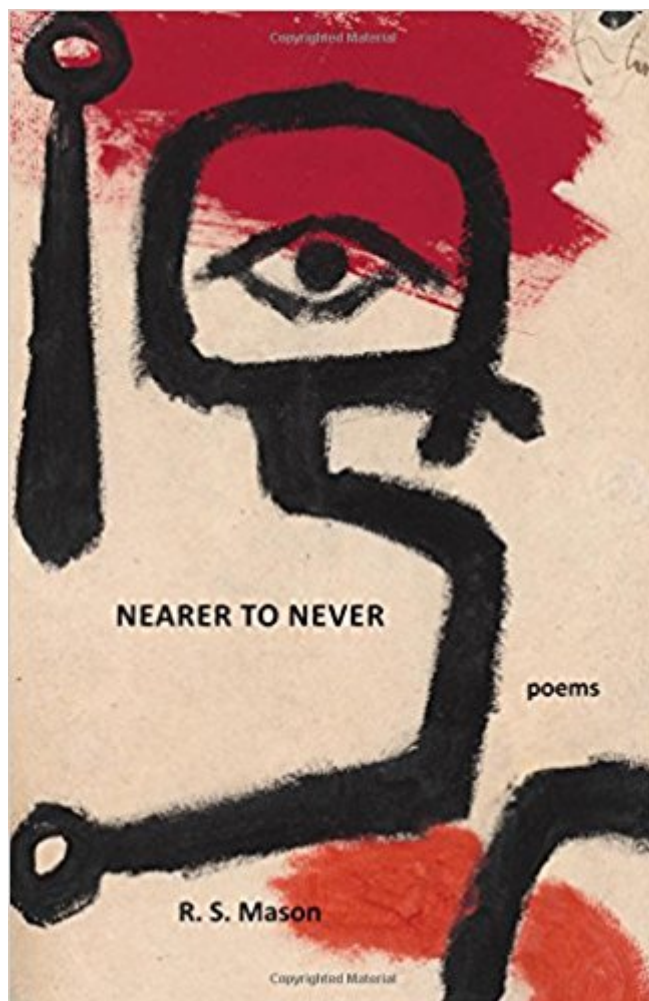


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Nearer To Never: Poems (Excelsior Editions)



Synopsis

A poetic examination of whatâ€™s waiting just beneath every day experience. As the title suggests, the poems in R. S. Masonâ€™s *Nearer to Never* paradoxically comprise a book of the unmanifest, a poetic examination of whatâ€™s waiting just beneath everyday experience. Recalling Blake, Baudelaire, and Eliot, Mason addresses the innately sacred, melding philosophy, aesthetics, and Buddhist precepts into a lyrical work that is truly modern and avant-garde. Rendered in a straightforward lyrical style, the poems are oddly comprehensible, at times darkly humorous. The language is fresh, elemental, and ludic; the writing is clean, direct, and empowered. Some poems wrestle with the conclusion that life reduces itself to some mere, otherworldly absence; while others reveal the false prison of the ideal, either humanistically or religiously constructed. The poems invite a readerâ€™s most intimate aesthetic engagement, through the technique of radical doubt or, in the Buddhist tradition, a "beginnerâ€™s mind" whereby each poem unlocks. In his debut, Mason drives poetry beyond the well-worn schisms established in the previous century, successfully showing that the irreconcilable can cohere, and the inexpressible can, at the most, be sketched.

â€œZipâ€• I will not ascend on an engine
A bobble scope, a space-kit
Nor breathe pure oxygen
As I rumble through the finite
â€ˆWhatâ€™s indestructible
Is fragileâ€™ I would utter
In my voice-box!
Rambling through The depth and breadth
Without ever Blasting off

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Customer Reviews

This is a very potent, very strong debut. Each poem feels like a sheath or scabbard that slowly unseals some latent mystery in one's psyche. The poems both invoke and unsheathe artifice. Shows a great deal of potential and a real taste for mystery and truth.

I know the author and his poetry is divine. A must read for anyone who is exploring the divine!

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