



About the Book:

In her first full-length collection, the mystical Islamic poet Saba Syed Razvi utilizes provocative, lavish verse to draw political consciousness and cultural identity through the sieve of inherited mythos and ecstatic awareness. The poems of *In the Crocodile Gardens* blossom out of the liminal moments in which familiar narratives begin to unravel, exploring the nature of transgression in emotionally contractual situations that have not retained their structural integrity. Readers must consider the hagiography of the seeker: the trail of clues that render her a scavenger among societal artifacts of lore, lullaby, and fantasy gone mirrorwise. These poems investigate the allure of mystical experience—both the threat and the promise of losing the self.

Praise for the Book:

“Infused with a taste of the mystical and infiltrated by tendrils of literary allusion, this elegant collection feels beyond time—and yet it also faces contemporary challenges with uncommon delicacy &

insight. And whether it’s treating the war in Afghanistan or the goddess Persephone, each poem conveys an intimacy, a proximity: Razvi’s voice is very, very close to her reader, almost whispering these vibrant images and compelling, highly crafted phrases.” —COLE SWENSEN, AUTHOR OF *The Glass Age*, EDITOR OF *American Hybrid*

“Unabashedly passionate in her sharp imagery, her tone, and her vision, Saba Syed Razvi’s poems will have you journey in the realms of crocodile, bulldozer, and the body’s contours. Enjoy!” —KIMIKO HAHN, AUTHOR OF *Toxic Flora* AND *Brain Fever*

“In her first full collection, Saba Syed Razvi haunts a spiritual lyricism with ravenous, often predatory language. These poems read like Rumi wrestling a crocodile.” —ROGER SEDARAT, AUTHOR OF *Ghazal Games* AND *Dear Regime*

About the Author:

Saba Syed Razvi is the author of *Of the Divining and the Dead* (Finishing Line Press, 2012) and *Limerence and Lux* (Chax Press, 2016). She is an Assistant Professor of English & Creative Writing at the University of Houston in Victoria, TX. She has been honored by James A. Michener, Fania Kruger, and Virginia C Middleton fellowships. She earned a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Southern California.



Agape Editions is a literary micropress, located in southern California. We publish literary work that enacts or engages with various aspects of the mystical or the Numinous. We are interested in ecstatic experience, moments of vision, and the potential of spirituality & religion to serve as conduit for cultural identity. Our purpose is interfaith and intercultural as well as literary.