

# American Rendering: New and Selected Poems by Rae Armantrout



## American Rendering: New and Selected Poems

by Andrew Hudgins

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 186 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 241 pages



Rae Armantrout's *American Rendering: New and Selected Poems* is a powerful and moving collection that explores the American landscape, both physical and cultural. Through her precise language and keen observation, Armantrout captures the beauty and complexity of the American experience, while also exposing its contradictions and injustices.

The poems in *American Rendering* are divided into four sections: "The Country," "The City," "The West," and "The South." Each section explores a different aspect of the American landscape, from the wide-open spaces of the Great Plains to the crowded streets of New York City. Armantrout's poems are full of vivid imagery and sensory detail, and she uses language in a way that is both precise and evocative.

In "The Country," Armantrout captures the beauty and isolation of the American countryside. In the poem "Field," she writes:



***“A field of grass, a field of grain, a field of weeds.***

***The wind blows, the sun shines, the rain falls.***

***The grass grows, the grain ripens, the weeds flourish.***

***And then, winter comes.”***

The poem's simple language and repetitive structure create a sense of timelessness and inevitability. The field is a symbol of the American landscape, and the poem's cyclical imagery suggests that the seasons of life are as unchanging as the seasons of the year.

In "The City," Armantrout explores the hustle and bustle of urban life. In the poem "City Park," she writes:



***“A city park, a green oasis in a sea of concrete.***

***People come here to escape the noise, the traffic, the pollution.***

***They come here to relax, to play, to read.***

***But even here, in this peaceful sanctuary, the city is never far away.”***

The poem's contrast between the park's natural beauty and the city's surrounding noise and pollution creates a sense of tension and unease. The city is a place of both beauty and danger, and Armantrout's poem captures the complex emotions that it can evoke.

In "The West," Armantrout explores the myth and reality of the American West. In the poem "The Frontier," she writes:



***“The frontier, a place of dreams and nightmares.***

***A place where anything is possible.***

***A place where you can reinvent yourself.***

***But the frontier is also a place of danger.***

***A place where you can lose yourself.”***

The poem's use of repetition and contrast creates a sense of ambiguity and uncertainty. The frontier is a place of both promise and peril, and Armantrout's poem reminds us that the American West is a complex and ever-changing landscape.

In "The South," Armantrout explores the history and culture of the American South. In the poem "The Blues," she writes:



***“The blues, a music of pain and sorrow.***

***A music of hope and resilience.***

***A music that speaks to the heart.***

***The blues, a music of the South.***

***A music that tells the story of a people.”***

The poem's use of repetition and simple language creates a sense of authenticity and emotion. The blues is a music that speaks to the experience of the African American community in the South, and Armantrout's poem captures the music's power to express both pain and hope.

*American Rendering: New and Selected Poems* is a powerful and moving collection that explores the American landscape, both physical and cultural. Through her precise language and keen observation, Armantrout captures the beauty and complexity of the American experience, while also exposing its contradictions and injustices. This is a collection that deserves to be read and reread for years to come.



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