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Lay Back the Darkness: Poems

By Edward Hirsch

Alfred A. Knopf, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 208 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Edward Hirsch's sixth collection is a descent into the darkness of middle age, narrated with exacting tenderness. He explores the boundaries of human fallibility both in candid personal poems, such as the title piece--a plea for his father, a victim of Alzheimer's wandering the hallway at night--and in his passionate encounters with classic poetic texts, as when Dante's *Inferno* enters his bedroom: When you read Canto Five aloud last night in your naked, singsong, fractured Italian, my sweet compulsion, my carnal appetite, I suspected we shall never be forgiven for devouring each other body and soul . . . From the lighting of a Yahrzeit candle to the drawings by the children of Terezin, Hirsch longs for transcendence in art and in the troubled history of his faith. In *The Hades Sonnets*, the ravishing series that crowns the collection, the poet awakens full of grief in his wife's arms, but here as throughout, there is a luminous forgiveness in his examination of our sorrows. Taken together, these poems offer a profound engagement with our need...



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