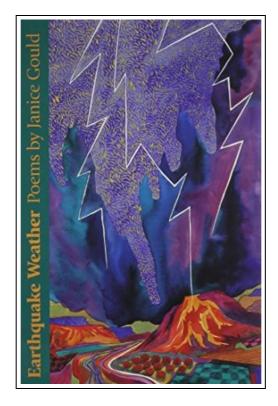
Earthquake Weather: Poems



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(Alize Bashirian I)

EARTHQUAKE WEATHER: POEMS



University of Arizona Press, United States, 1996. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New. 215 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. It s unmistakable, that strangely calm air and sky that signals big change ahead: earthquake weather. These are familiar signs to Janice Gould, a poet, a lesbian, and a mixed-blood California Indian of Koyangk, uwi Maidu descent. Her sense of isolation is intense, her search for identity is relentless, and her words can take one s breath away. Sometimes accepting, sometimes full of anger, Gould s work is rare, filtered through the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of a lesbian of Indian heritage. Over and over again, she speaks as an outsider looking in at the lives of others--through a doorway, out of a car window, or from the shambles of a broken relationship. Showing a steady courage in the midst of this alienation, her words are also stark testimony to the struggle of an individual caught in social and emotional contexts defined by others. In Earthquake Weather, as in an evolving friendship, Gould opens herself to the reader in stages. I did not know how lonely I was / till we began to talk, she writes in an opening section, setting the introspective tone of what s to come. She begins with a focus on those universal truths that both bind us and isolate us from each other: the pain of loss, the finality of death, our longing to see beneath the surface of things. Next, the poet turns to her growing-up years during the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement. She describes a family in turmoil and an Indian heritage that, oddly, was one of the factors that made her feel most disconnected from other people. And she writes poignantly about her increasing alienation from prescribed...

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