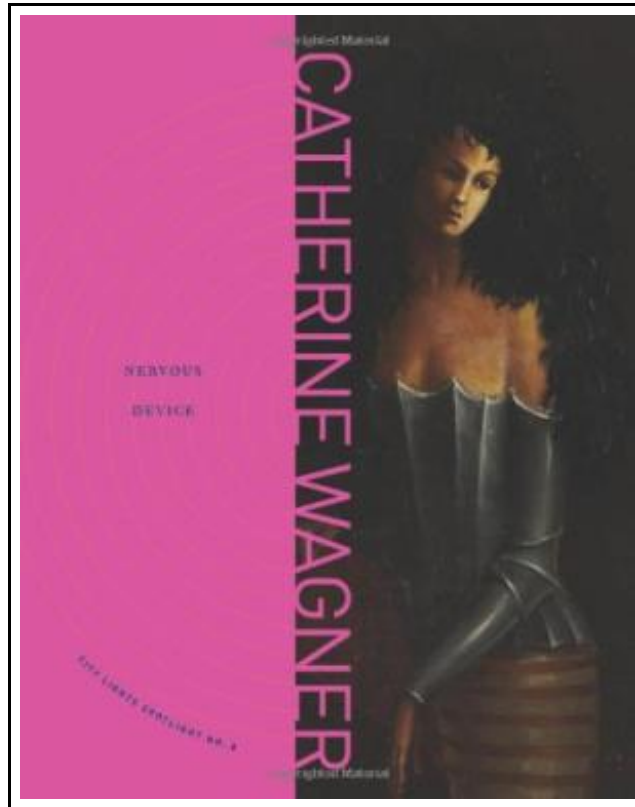


Nervous Device



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Reviews

It in a single of the best book. This is for those who statte there had not been a well worth reading through. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
(Dr. Barney Robel Jr.)

NERVOUS DEVICE



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City Lights Books. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Nervous Device, Catherine Wagner, In "Nervous Device," Catherine Wagner takes inspiration from William Blake's "bounding line" to explore the poem as a body at the intersection between poet and audience. Using this as a figure for sexual, political, and economic interactions, Wagner's poems shift between seductive lyricism and brash fragmentation as they negotiate the failure of human connection in the twilight of American empire. Intellectually informed, yet insistent on their objecthood, Wagner's poems express a self-conscious skepticism even as they maintain an optimistically charged eroticism." "Wagner's fourth collection contains poems of memory and dark artifice. She writes with an obscure, magnetic lens. . . . Wagner contrasts these complicated poems with short, clean, pieces that offer a kind of breathing space for the reader. Not to be mistaken for trivial, the linguistic tightness of these poems are highlights of Wagner's collection."--Publishers Weekly" "Taking with one hand what they give with the other, Wagner's poems are full of vehemence and disdain and tenderness and somewhere, in some inexpugnable part of the body of language through which so many discomfoting feelings pass, a thorny kind of joy. This is my idea of great poetry: in which 'The actual is / flickering a binary / between word and not-word.'"--Barry Schwabsky," Hyperallergic" "Nervous Device is such a smart book. You never know where the poems are going to take you, or when some startling, often cringe-making image or thought will intrude. Unable to settle into a comfortable rhetorical space, these poems reject simple claims to knowing something or doing right or changing the world. Rather, they move like an erratic insect stuck in a language bell jar. Brilliant, and disturbing."--Jennifer Moxley "Nervous device, the human machine, palpitating inside its own little bounding lines. These poems...



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