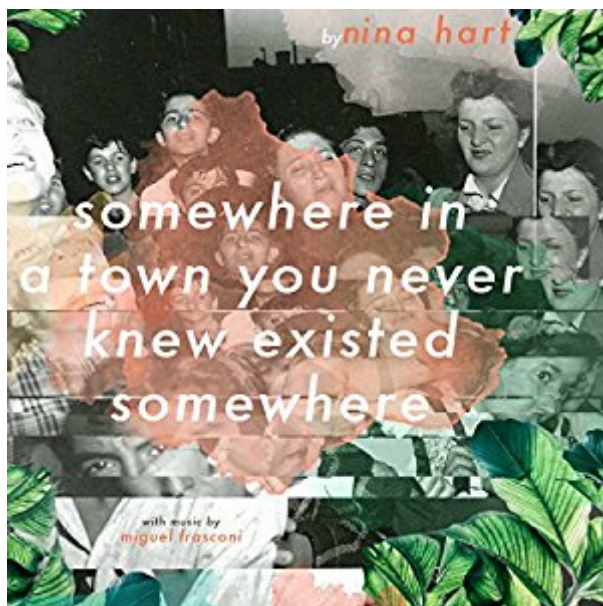


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Somewhere In A Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere



Synopsis

Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere is a book that speaks directly to society's "elephants in the living room" through kooky hooliganism and satire. Five year-old Bonanza's mother tells her to "keep digging" as she buries her dolls, and ultimately, herself. The dead poet Robert Lowell reappears as a high school student. Meanwhile, at a butterfly farm, the protagonist dishes up some unconventional environmental justice. Even the ones who kill with oil spills have a voice in this bizarre primer of the exquisite, the mundane, and the insane. Written in an improvisatory manner, characters in Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere skid apart and reunite, stories connect and disconnect. The stories are raw and dreamlike, breaking time/space reality rules, committing literary misdemeanors and requiring the listener not only have an imagination but to be willing to stretch it beyond normal fictional boundaries. Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere not only pushes the edges of writing, but also is willing to go to the dark and often taboo topics that haunt us in our dreams and waking life, breathing vitality back into the suffocation we as a collective experience around the issues of ecology, education, childhood, play, and animal rights. An important dialogue written with political overtones, the book manages to be intimate, deeply vulnerable, and very funny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere' is a thoroughly enjoyable text in book form, and it's a fascinating and well produced audio book, read by the author, with accompanying soundscapes by Miguel Frascón. Nina Hart is a gifted prose-poet and story teller who deftly delivers

surreal contexts while keeping the reader grounded in recognizable worlds. Incorporating a wide emotional range, Hart's work mixes lighthearted whimsy and delight with pungent dark elements that form rich contrasts indicative of the human experience. Acerbic diatribes regarding oil spills, the injustices of corrupt political power, and deep-seated faults in the education system are cradled and soothed by celebratory passages from the point of view of the playful mind of a bejeweled elephant, among other non-traditional personae. Sentence structures are re-configured, interrupted and segued to create new forms, ideas and images in the mind of the reader/listener. As a performer, Nina Hart recalls the dreamy monologues of Laurie Anderson. Her imaginative writing shares territory with the prose poet Mary Ruefle. 'Somewhere in a Town you Never Knew Existed Somewhere' is a wholly unique experience I relished both as a reader and a listener.

This book of sometimes loosely-linked flash fiction and occasionally poetry is a beautifully imaginative work that builds on itself with a kind of synergetic magic as it goes along. The writing is free and unrestrained and unique with a fresh and nimble voice. Nina Hart has tapped into some species of dreamscape or psychedeliscap or memoritive-imaginatavision that is tantalizing and evocative and compelling and settles like a delicious, well-spiced exotic meal, with a slow, satisfying "glumph" in the readers mindbelly. It's an elephant of a book in an easily manageable package. I'll go back to it for inspiration.

Have you ever had one of those dreams that featured a myriad of rapidly-shifting characters and places, with action and imagery that jumped around in a seemingly-random way, triggering a whole host of emotions that caused you to awaken with your mind and heart buzzing? If a dream like that were written as a book, this would be it. The author's brave, raw, and intense work reflects her obvious love of writing and what it can do. Her use of words is masterful, eliciting thoughts and feelings so powerful that they may take a reader by surprise. I certainly look forward to more work by Nina Hart.

Nina Hart's slender collection "Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere" will have a place on my bookshelf next to Richard Brautigan's "Trout Fishing in America." Extraordinary, even terrifying, events arrive with such everyday matter-of-factness that even the mundane act of comprehension itself becomes a commentary and collusion. Each tiny chapter packs a wallop. Hart plays with language but it is the reader who has fun.

Disclosure: I am a student and friend of Nina's. That said, I never assume that because I love a person I will love their work, so it's a joy and a relief to find that her first book is as fresh, startling, raw, funny, painful, and odd as *Somewhere in a Town...* It's not very long but that doesn't make it a trifle. It's worth reading a few of these short pieces at a time and then pausing to let them swim around in your brain aquarium. Nina writes from a very open place where images and emotions transform from horrific to playful, from surreal to hyperreal in a blink, with the logic and fluidity of dreams. It made me laugh out loud and brought me almost to tears on the same page. Nina's voice is entirely her own, and I look forward to watching her writing unfold.

Each story and every word of Nina Hart's first book "*Somewhere in a Town You Never Knew Existed Somewhere*" is a gift onto the readers of the world!!! Hart took me to places in this universe and within myself that I only imagined existed, yet no one until now ever spoke or wrote of them before, at least not in such a creative, imaginative and evocative way. Thank you Nina Hart for this amazing literary masterpiece!

This book is a delight. It is fresh, original, and surprising. You ride these poems as you would a bronco. You never know where they will take you or what spill lies head. Hang on to the saddle and give your horse its head! Nina Hart is completely at home in the world of the imagination. Reading this book you realize how narrow and confined has been your own outlook and way of conveying a story. *Somewhere in a Town* is a wake up book, calling out loud to writers and readers about new ways to open up the story telling mind and follow wherever the trail will lead.

This book is a revelation. Each short piece conveys not only Nina's unique vision and humor and deep heart, but the courage to follow her impulse wherever it takes her. And it takes us in exhilarating directions, and provides a great inspiration for any writer, let alone any reader. I predict that this first edition of Nina's first book will be a valued collector's item in the not too distant future. I might even say the start of a whole new genre, yet to be named.

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