
WET SILENCE

Poems about Hindu widows

Sweta Srivastava Vikram

Foreword by Shaila Abdullah

From the World Voices Series

Modern History Press

Wet Silence: Poems About Hindu Widows

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Praise *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* for the Poetry of Sweta Srivastava Vikram

“Vikram’s wordsmithing is outstanding. I have read much poetry and have never seen such creativeness as that of this author. She allows her words to flow with rhythm and deepness. The wisdom that comes through her is beyond any I’ve seen.”

—Irene Watson, *Reader Views*

“In *Kaleidoscope: An Asian Journey of Colors*, Sweta Srivastava Vikram re-appropriates color. Cultures and mythologies collide along the way, and the result is a chapbook that feels like a quest. In the end, the colors are a map to *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* identity. The *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* child’s pink tonsils or the bride’s red sari are not symbols, but rather mile markers. Like Vikram’s poems, they *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* lead toward understanding.”

—Erica Wright, Senior Poetry Editor, *Guernica*

“This slim chapbook is a quick bite. Poems appear and disappear in the blink of an eye, but linger in consciousness longer than you might think they would. The use of colors is fascinating to the desi mind; we, as one poem remarks, *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* ‘exist in a hue of experiences.’”

—Vidya Pradhan, Editor, *India Currents*

“This chapbook is the dazzling display of a poet who teases us with fresh imagery and delicate linguistic craftsmanship. The real joy of this collection is its potential to be read in a single sitting, multiple times, with each subsequent reading revealing new insights. For poetry virgins, this text demands no sophisticated knowledge *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* of poetics and *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* literary discourse. To put simply, it is an accessible piece of enjoyable writing.”

—Orchid Tierney, Editor, *Rem Magazine*, New Zealand

“I dove into this book of poems quickly and eagerly, then slowed down to savor the words and the images, marveling over Sweta Srivastava Vikram’s unique mix of grace, humor, and eloquence, which forms a medley of beauty and color.”

—Susan Ortlieb, *Suko's Notebook*

“Sweta has woven such a spell with her word usage and the symbolisms that the most complex becomes the simplest *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* of all.”

—Smita Singh, *VAANI*, UK

“I’m glad I found a new South Asian author, and will be following Vikram’s work closely in the future.”

—Swapna Krishna

“Sweta Srivastava Vikram’s *Because All Is Not Lost: Verse On Grief* shares her personal loss and, in return, comforts the reader. Her beautifully crafted poems take the reader on a voyage that has to be undertaken by each of us individually.”

—Patricia Carragon, *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* *Brownstone Poets*

“...there is a bit of defiance in her words as the color beige takes over in old age and she fights to remain red, youthful. Overall, *Kaleidoscope: An Asian Journey of Colors* is an even *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* stronger chapbook poetry collection than *Because All Is Not Lost* because it deals more than with just emotion and healing. Sweta Srivastava Vikram is a gifted poet...”

—Serena, *Savvy Verse and Wit*

“This is a collection populated by a recognizable but richly *Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows* diverse and dramatic cast of family characters.”

—Mary-Jane Newton, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*

“Sweta’s poetic voice flows like water smoothing and shaping stones. With great skill she uncovers, sometimes tenderly and other times more forcefully, the shroud of fog surrounding the feminine archetype... she has created and nurtured a garden, a wordscape, in which trust and healing can flourish.”

—Nick Purdon, author *The Road-shaped Heart*

“Sweta Srivastava Vikram holds her work close. Fold it one way, a poem of loss appears. Fold it yet again for a poem of longing. Her work is as structurally sound as the elements. It soars with anticipation. Vikram reveals lovely and powerful poems that will long linger.”

—Doug Mathewson, Editor, *Blink-Ink*

Also by Sweta Srivastava Vikram

Poetry

Because All Is Not Lost

Kaleidoscope: An Asian Journey of Colors

Whispering Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows Woes of Ganges Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows & Zambezi

Not All Birds Sing

Beyond the Scent of Sorrow

No Ocean Here

Fiction

Perfectly Untraditional

Nonfiction

Mouth full: *A collection of personal essays and poetry*

Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows

For Anudit, my husband—
for always being my biggest fan

“Never doubt Wet Silence: Poems about Hindu Widows that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

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