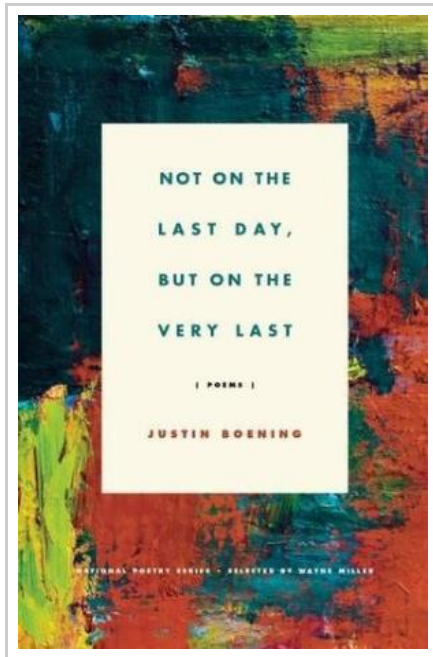




Not on the Last Day, But on the Very Last: Poems

By Justin Boening

Milkweed Editions. Paperback. Condition: New. 80 pages. Winner of the National Poetry Series. Mothers masquerading as witches and sepulchral bellhops who reveal themselves to be fathers: in Justin Boenings debut collection of poems, selected for the National Poetry Series by Wayne Miller, nothing is as it seems. Peopled by figures both uncanny and tragiclionesses who dance and cry, surgeons who carry with them the trauma of past lives, an opera singer whose notes go awry. Not on the Last Day, but on the Very Last uses the language of dreams and of fairy tales to deliver a keenly felt exploration of family, grief, regret, and belonging. A traveler leaves home for the first time, and asks, This town has nothing to offer me anymore. Why am I still so afraid to leave it. In a psychiatrists office, a patient laments, They always ask about my mother. . . . There should be a rule against inheritance. Here everything stands for something else. But though the Freudian mother and father lurk behind every sequined costume, continue to strip away the masks, Boening suggests, and youll find an even more primal absence at the center. Nobody, No One, mortality, death. Beyond that, we find, lies...



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Reviews

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