



## Approaching the Gate: Poems

*Lynette Reini-Grandell*

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**Approaching the Gate: Poems** Lynette Reini-Grandell

**Winner of the 2015 Northeastern Minnesota Book Award for Poetry**

Lynette Reini-Grandell's long-anticipated debut collection of poetry quickens with forward movement, be it in a car that pushes towards the stars—or with a horse that suddenly spooks, leaving the speaker "knocked down, / breathless, / turning to the sight of a thousand-pound horse / rushing the gate / and leaping over my head." Several of the poems probe the experience of her grandparents who emigrated from Finland and settled on a farm in northern Minnesota in the early twentieth century. The urge to move forward is matched with a deep love and reverence for creatures living in their natural world, for the buzz of the city, for unmet ancestors and kindred spirits, and most especially for her transgender husband.

## **Approaching the Gate**

*Peel back the feathers, peel back the fur.  
The pale, protective skin--peel that away too.*

*Pull apart anything that covers,  
scrape away whatever doesn't fit.*

*Let light stream in at the speed of blood,  
slice past cornea, sclera, iris, retina.*

*Anything to fell the green-leaved past  
and pave a roadway,*

*anything to get to the inside,  
anything to plow this ground under.*

**Lynette Reini-Grandell's** poetry has received grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Finlandia Foundation. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is part of an art installation in room 5D of the Carlton Arms Hotel in Manhattan. In Minneapolis, she reads regularly with the Bosso Poetry Company, a subsidiary of Bosso Enterprises, theoretically based in Big Lever, Wyoming.

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