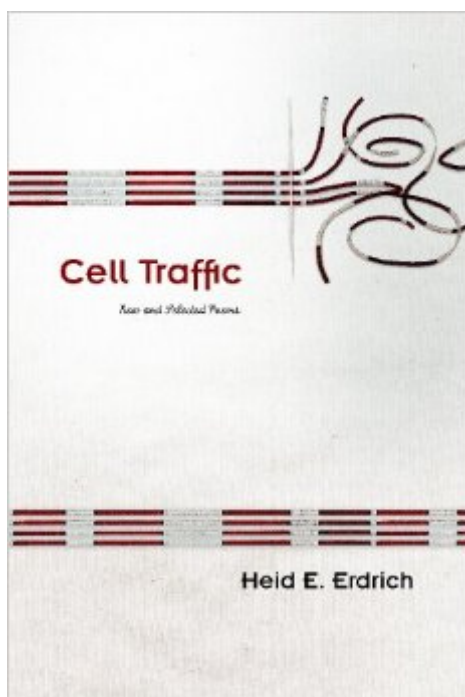


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Cell Traffic: New And Selected Poems (Sun Tracks)



Synopsis

Cell Traffic presents new poems and uncollected prose poetry along with selected work from award-winning poet Heid Erdrich's three previous poetry collections. Erdrich's new work reflects her continuing concerns with the tensions between science and tradition, between spirit and body. She finds surprising common ground while exploring indigenous experience in multifaceted ways: personal, familial, biological, and cultural. The title, Cell Traffic, suggests motion and Erdrich considers multiple movements-cellular transfer, the traffic of DNA through body parts and bones, "migration" through procreation, and the larger "movements" of indigeness and ancestral inheritance. Erdrich's wry sensibility, sly wit, and keenly insightful mind have earned her a loyal following. Her point of view is always slightly off center, and this lends a particular freshness to her poetry. The debunking and debating of the science of origins is one of Erdrich's focal subjects. In this collection, she turns her observational eye to the search for a genetic mother of humanity, forensic anthropology's quest for the oldest known bones, and online offers of genetic testing. But her interests are not limited to science. She freely admits popular culture into her purview as well, referencing sci-fi television series and Internet pop-up ads.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Meeting a poet through her New and Selected, as I met Heid E. Erdrich, is like taking a cross-country road trip with a stranger. Climb in the car, let Erdrich drive you through her vision of

America. I read for the same reason I travel: to have my world expanded. CELL TRAFFIC: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS, which includes a full-length-collection's worth of new poems, previously uncollected poems, and Erdrich's three earlier books, satisfied this desire by introducing me to (among many things) the idea of microchimerism, elements of the Ojibwe language and culture, the landscape of the Great Plains, and the complicated transition to motherhood. She combines formal elegance, a sense of humor rooted in the body, and a willingness to address the political dimensions of all her identities. Highly recommended! After reading the book, I had the good fortune to hear Erdrich--if you get that opportunity, take it! She's an expansive, generous reader, and the poems find their full expression in her voice.

Heid Erdrich is brilliant, funny, and work necessary to anti-colonial projects. Her approach to science, technology, and Native peoples is done with amazing depth and wit.

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