

A CROWN OF FLAMES - *a microreview*

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Flaminia Cruciani's collection of poetry, *A Crown of Flames*, intertwines lyrical rhythm and beauty with profound contemplation. Through intricate verses that weave through themes of love and loss, connection and experience, and faith and humanity, Cruciani demonstrates an ocean of understanding, both graceful and significant of language and human emotion.

"I gave birth to humanity, in the woods of indifference" (Excerpt from "We Were Silent in The Same Language"). Through this collection that demands the confrontation of thought and feeling, Cruciani allows readers to go through a self-reflection of personal experience that one can only describe as healing. Each poem in this collection is crafted with carefully brilliant imagery designed to resonate deeply with readers. This excerpt from one of the poems in this collection, "Reporting From A Dig," captures that imagery perfectly: "An olive sleep, the senses hauled down in hemorrhaging millenia // undoing the knit of sacred sleep // a desert tunic without a hem, castle of bones fortified in white // clay sunflowers the cogwheels of your afflictions."

Cruciani's ability to capture fleeting moments and instill them with an air of timelessness without taking away from their modern relevance demonstrates her in-depth understanding of the human experience being just that: felt by all and unchanged by past or present. Cruciani writes like an ocean moves, her words often similar to the calm before the storm. Her poems allow readers to linger over her words and savor their meanings with language that is sometimes subtle at first glance, then powerful as a tidal wave of feeling and understanding.

