

THE FOREVER NOTES

ETHEL RACKIN

Free Verse Editions
Edited by Jon Thompson

Information and Pricing

978-1-60235-370-1 (paperback, \$14); 978-1-60235-371-8 (Adobe eBook, \$12).

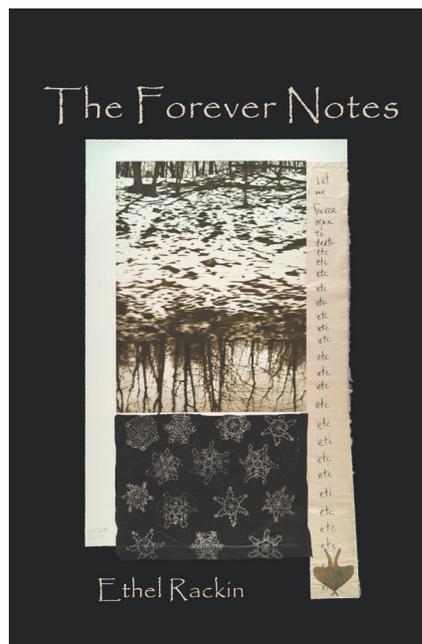
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Plato wrote in the *Timaeus* of time as the moving image of eternity. In Ethel Rackin's *The Forever Notes* each of these terms finds resonance: the fleeting objects of the world are moving, and persons moved; her lyric syntax builds pictures that dissolve into song and then turn back to image again; the eternal endures in its endless transformations. "Leaves are for changing" she observes—an insight just as true of the leaves of her book. —Susan Stewart

Ethel Rackin's lyrical sound bites have a mysterious hold. In them, the visual and the aural are inextricably linked. "Adrift in internal music," is how she puts it. Her notes are notations that produce pictures of the real world, but those notes also create songs. "Each object has a title," says Rackin; her poems demonstrate that each object has musical depth, too. The result is beautiful: "A song that reaches as far as an eye can see." —David Trinidad

Everyone should read this book because it is so effective and unique. The book will make you ache, whether or not you're an artist. It will intrigue you. Its objects—trees, chocolate, wheelbarrows, a ship on the sea, nightgowns, rug samples, a garden, a femur bone, cookies, a blind bird, curbs, scotch—have a relationship with the speaker and with us that is personal, moving, isolated, lonely, and longing. In a shattered world we recognize as very close to ours and also see as an exotic destination, there is a song overall as if we were hearing it in a woods, or on the ocean, or in a city, hearing it from somewhere and compelled to find it. It's this new, essential poet. —Arthur Vogelsang

ETHEL RACKIN was born in Philadelphia. Her work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Court Green*, *Evergreen Review*, *Poetry East*, *Volt*, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA from Bard College and her PhD in English Literature from Princeton University. She has taught at Penn State Brandywine, Haverford College, and Bucks County Community College in Pennsylvania, where she is currently an assistant professor.



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