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Forays into Swedish Poetry

By Lars Gustafsson, Robert T. Rovinsky

University of Texas Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Forays into Swedish Poetry, Lars Gustafsson, Robert T. Rovinsky, When poet/critic Lars Gustafsson was the editor of Bonniers Litterara Magasin, he was bombarded with the question, "What makes a good poem?" Forays into Swedish Poetry is his answer. The fifteen poems in this volume range across the history of Swedish poetry from the 1640s, at the beginning of the Period of Great Power, to the late twentieth century. Poets as diverse as Skogekar Bergbo, Erik Johan Stagnelius, August Strindberg, and Vilhelm Ekelund are discussed from historical, psychological, and sociopolitical viewpoints. However, Gustafsson includes only those poems he considers excellent. Each essay begins with a presentation of the poem both in Swedish and in English translation. Gustafsson's analyses are built upon his subjective experiences with poems and poets and upon a more objective structural approach that investigates the actual machinery of the poems. Thus, Gustafsson enlightens us with his always imaginative, sometimes daring analyses, and we learn a great deal about the critic himself in the process. One of his main concerns is what he calls, in his discussion of Edith Sodergran, the very mysteriousness of human existence. Time and again,...



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