

NEW FROM FOUR WAY BOOKS

# Bianca Eugenia Leigh



*“Eugenia Leigh’s Bianca pierces with its white hot rage and sorrow. With terrifying honesty and lyric precision, Leigh revisits the cyclonic violence her father inflicted upon her and her family and explores the dangers of mental illness when it goes unspoken, untreated, and unnamed. Bianca devastates me.”*  
—Cathy Park Hong, author of *Minor Feelings*, *Engine Empire*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*

“I thought I forgave you,” Eugenia Leigh tells the specter of her father in *Bianca*. “Then I took root and became / someone’s mother.” Leigh’s gripping second collection introduces us to a woman managing marriage, motherhood, and mental illness as her childhood abuse resurfaces in the light of “this honeyed life.” Leigh strives to reconcile the disconnect between her past and her present as she confronts the inherited violence mired in the body’s history. As she “choose[s] to be tender to [her] child—a choice / [her] mangled brain makes each day,” memories arise, asking the mother in her to tend, also, to the girl she once was. Thus, we meet her manic alter ego, whose history becomes the gospel of *Bianca*: “We all called her Bianca. My fever, my havoc, my tilt.” These poems recover and reconsider Leigh’s girlhood and young adulthood with the added context of PTSD and Bipolar Disorder. They document the labyrinth of a woman breaking free from the cycle of abuse, moving from anger to grief, from self-doubt to self-acceptance. *Bianca* is ultimately the testimony of one woman’s daily recommitment to this life. To living. “I expected to die much younger than I am now,” Leigh writes, in awe of the strangeness of now, of “every quiet and colossal joy.”

## PUBLISHING DETAILS:

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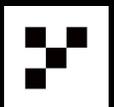
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## PUBLICIST:

Cassie Mannes Murray

Pine State Publicity

[Cassie@pinestatepublicity.com](mailto:Cassie@pinestatepublicity.com)



# PRAISE

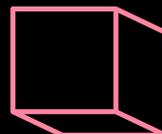
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"I hope you read Eugenia Leigh's ***Bianca*** from cover to cover, in one sitting, as I have. In these pages you will travel with a woman—brain, heart, and gut—delving into nightmare and violence to finally retrieve a life of love and motherhood, to accept that life. These poems, which are sometimes a torrent, sometimes a clear evening sky, challenge the reader to witness pain and then reward us with the poet's relentless search for connection and beauty."—**Patrick Rosal, author of *The Last Thing: New and Selected Poems & Brooklyn Antediluvian***

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"***Bianca*** is stunning, powerful, a lesson in memory's resistance to healing. Fiercely honest and a master of line breaks, Eugenia Leigh writes about trauma and mental illness in a way that reminds me that terror can still accompany thriving. Traversing childhood, young adulthood, marriage and new motherhood, Leigh contends with the ways constant survival can keep a person from living and loving. I am more alive and more myself after reading these poems. This is a book I didn't know I was waiting for." —**Traci Brimhall, author of *Come the Slumberless to the Land of Nod, Saudade, Our Lady of the Ruins, and Rookery***

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# ABOUT EUGENIA LEIGH



Photo by Ted Ely

Eugenia Leigh is a Korean American poet and the author of two collections of poetry, *Bianca* (Four Way Books, 2023) and *Blood, Sparrows and Sparrows* (Four Way Books, 2014), winner of the Late-Night Library's 2015 Debut-litzer Prize in Poetry selected by Arisa White, as well as a finalist for the National Poetry Series and the Yale Series of Younger Poets.

Her poems and essays have appeared in numerous publications including *The Nation*, *Guernica*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Tahoma Literary Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Waxwing*, the Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day, the *Best New Poets* anthology, and the *Best of the Net* anthology. Eugenia received her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College, where she was awarded the Thomas Lux Scholarship for her dedication to teaching, demonstrated through her writing workshops with incarcerated youths and with Brooklyn high school students. Since her time at Sarah Lawrence, Eugenia has served as a teaching artist with a variety of organizations including the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's group for undocumented youths, RAISE.

The recipient of *Poetry's* Bess Hokin Prize as well as fellowships and awards from *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *Kundiman*, and elsewhere, Eugenia served previously as a poetry editor for *Kartika Review* and for *Hyphen*, a news/culture outlet that celebrates the Asian American diaspora. She currently serves as a Poetry Editor at *The Adroit Journal* and as the Valentines Editor at *Honey Literary*, a BIPOC-focused literary journal and literary arts organization.