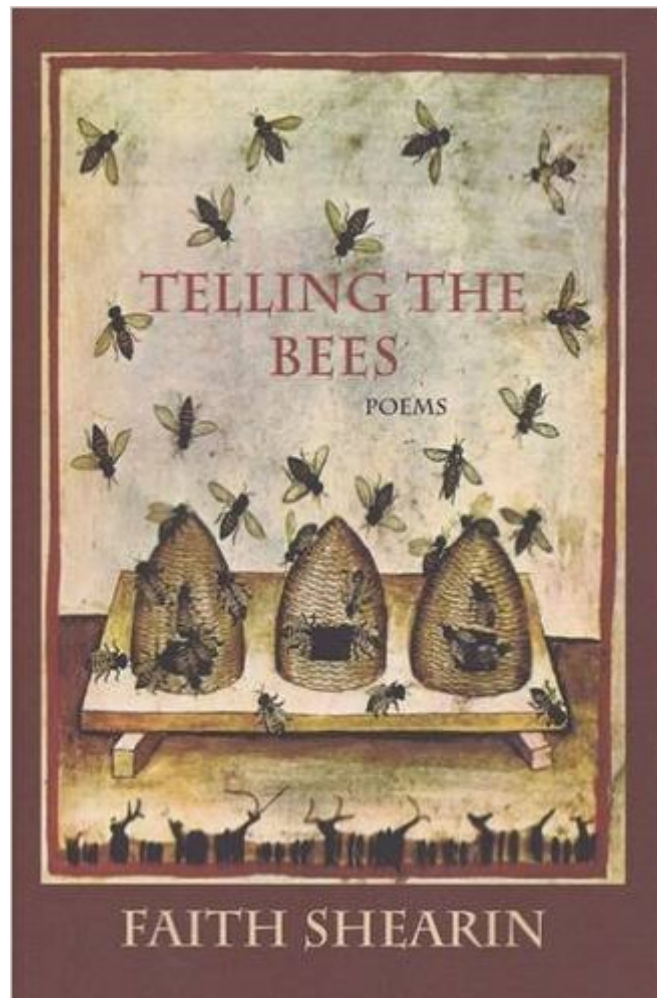


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Telling The Bees



Synopsis

Faith Shearin's latest poetry collection, *Telling the Bees*, is evidence of an ongoing, important talent. The author of three previous collections of poetry, the most recent, *Moving the Piano* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2011), was featured on numerous occasions on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*. Doubtless, the book received such overwhelming attention because Shearin proves, poem after poem, that she writes what we need: poetry that is accessible and meaningful, without gimmick and possessing a music and imagination hardly equaled by her contemporaries. As poet Tim Seibles wrote about *Moving the Piano*, "I think we want poems that can help us, poems that invite us to be clear . . . so that we can take the next step and not be made a fool by this life." • *Telling the Bees* is no-nonsense poetry at its best.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed by Jay Gilbertson Many musicians run through the scales to warm up, runners stretch and breathe, writers (well this one anyway) read something. For me, it's poetry. I get the daily email from my good friend, Garrison Keillor, *The Writer's Almanac*, and yet I sometimes need a more specific poem and so I turn to favorite authors. Author Shearin is just such a poet. She wraps life around her words and weaves them into an art form that brings me to a place of quiet, a starting point to step into story. A path to follow. Here is an excerpt from the poem, *Telling The Bees*. "They were loved for the way they made food that tasted like the village itself: its flowers and fields and rains and grief. You told the bees when someone inside your house took ill; it was the bees you consulted when you found yourself pregnant" • Sure, it's great to take a walk in the

woods to find inspiration, some writers speak of their muse, and how this otherness sits next to them and cheers them on. Still others put on favorite hats, play special music or sit at a certain table in the same coffee house. But there's nothing like a good poem to get the creative juices bubbling! You served the bees cake before a party and consoled them when your father died. You spoke to the hive, which is mostly feminine: that fat queen and her ladies in waiting, eternally listening in a castle made of wax. • Everyone should read poetry. Honestly, you should try it. Find an author that speaks to you, take the time to give this less read literary genre an opportunity to change you. It will. Words can do that, unfold your mind, open your heart and bring you into new spaces.

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