



Women in Public (City Lights Spotlight)

Elaine Kahn

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"Elaine Kahn's poems touch me somewhere deep."—**Kim Gordon**

In *Women in Public*, the debut full-length collection by poet/musician Elaine Kahn, personal philosophies and collective admissions are put through the corporeal grinder, harnessing the sensual as a medium for the cerebral in order to negotiate the "feminine condition" of being simultaneously othered and consumed. By turns seductive and self-deprecating, *Women in Public* navigates a world where the erotics of the body and mind do battle against the constructs that would demean and define them, using lyric, fragment, humor, and repetition to create a space flexible enough to hold the many contradictions of reality. Where expectations and desires can be piled too easily upon the body, Kahn digs in her heels, writing in attempt to liberate physical form from society's confines.

Praise for *Women in Public*:

"Do you think that you are greater than a mom?' This is an intensely honest, honestly intense poetry. Humorous, carnal, accusatory, celebratory—*Women in Public* tells me to get lost so I do. When I find myself later, I'm re-reading *Women in Public*."—**Rod Smith**

"In these exhilarating poems, Elaine Kahn shoots from the groin, championing a ferociousness that rages against asperity while playfully seducing the reader to misbehave. Hers is a realm where oceans beat against genitals, and Hannah Wilke warms the earth. I don't want to let go of *Women in Public* for I want its boldness all to myself."—**Dodie Bellamy**

About the Author:

Musician, poet, artist, **Elaine Kahn** was born in Evanston, Illinois and is currently based in Oakland, California. She received an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a BA from California College of the Arts. Kahn is the author of three poetry chapbooks, *A Voluptuous Dream During an Eclipse* (2012), *Customer* (2010), and *Radiant Bottle Caps* (2008), and is a contributor to *Art Papers*. Her music project, Horsebladder, has toured widely throughout the U.S. and Canada. She is also co-founder of the feminist puppet troop P. Splash Collective and managing editor of the small press *Flowers & Cream*.

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