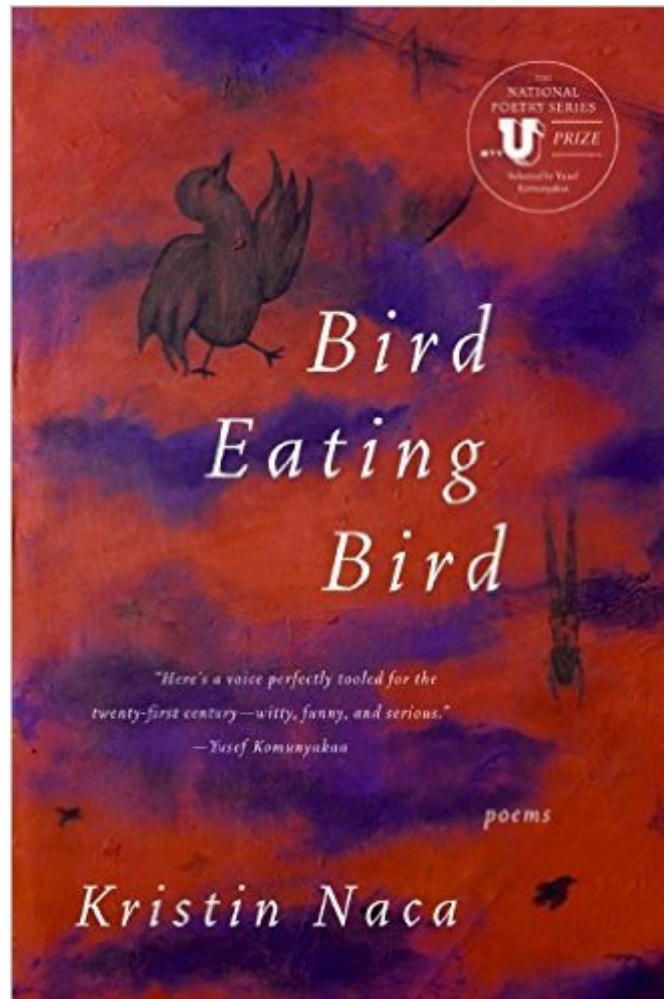


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# Bird Eating Bird: Poems (National Poetry Series)



## Synopsis

A winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series mtvU Prize as selected by Yusef Komunyakaa (winner of the Pulitzer Prize), Kristin's work perpetuates NPS's tradition of promoting exceptional poetry from lesser known poets. Her poems are playful and serious all at once. They explore the richness of her cultural and linguistic heritage, which spans the globe from Mexico to the Philippines. They defend with vigor and humor the color purple. And they analyze the insecurities of the letter â hâ -- among other things. For thirty years, the National Poetry Series has discovered many new and emerging voices and has been instrumental in launching the careers of poets and writers such as Billy Collins, Mark Doty, Denis Johnson, Cole Swensen, Thylas Moss, Mark Levine, and Dionisio Martinez.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Bird Eating Bird is a dense tour de force that scarcely seems like a first book. It justly deserves its place in the National Poetry Series and as an MTV U award winner, as it hits the sweet spot of literary-skillful and highly accessible. Whether we are roaming the heartlands of Nebraska, the Philippines, Mexico City, or San Antonio Texas, Kristin Naca manages to take us there with vivid contemporary stories and linguistic precision. "The nubs of the tongue site fat and bulky as flowers./ Say, \*tree\*. What's there but bare branches and some bark. /No words for putting layers of skin on spring yet." That's the first three lines of "Not Yet." It sounds even better in Spanish as "Todavía

No".For those not used to reading translations or skeptical of how something "not in English" can rock your world, fear not the multi-lingual nature of this book of poems. The entirely-Spanish poems are translated. Any embedded non-English words make sense in context. And what makes the mastery so rare and wonderful is that none of this language shifting seems bolted or stapled on; Naca merely moves back and forth and the reader easily moves with her. In addition to English, Spanish, and Tagalog it's fair to say that the language of the body is one the languages spoken here: from love in a motel room to a broken foot in a cast on a windowsill, to the exacting, tiny details of a woman's hands emerging from gloves. Besides adding sensuality and texture to the work, it also grounds the reader to the time, place, and culture of each poem, whether they themselves are from that time, place or culture themselves. You will devour Bird Eating Bird, I promise you.

One of the most masterful voices to have emerged in decades. Naca's poems manage to be elegant yet tough, languorous yet energetic, smart-ass, lyrical, and moving all at once. She explores the bone beneath the skin, the murmur of voices just beyond hearing.

This is a book of emotion & you can feel the emotion drip off of every page. Interactions with her father, birds & spanish all are woven together cohesively & disjointed, as Kumunyakaa says, witty & serious. I haven't found a better book this year. I can almost feel the happiness off of these pages, from a little one winning a big prize, to the craftiness of each of these poems. Bueno.

Beautifully written poetry- very powerful, surprised me and made me want to keep reading more. I've passed this book along to many friends and family members.

A great read - wonderfully vivid and visual stories, it make me want to be adopted by her family - no wonder Kristin Naca is such an amazing person!!

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