



No Small Effort

Joseph Dorazio

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Joseph Dorazio hones his wit on the curiosities of language, coaxing paradox and wisdom out of figurative speech or cultural touchstones. Indeed, it is no small effort, as the title of this volume suggests, to create concise poems that speak volumes—and what fun they are!

Linda M. Fischer, author of *Raccoon Afternoons* and *Glory*

“Doesn't everything / arise from mystery? / Even blue had to come / from somewhere: / a mosque, perhaps, or / art's inner sanctum / where each stroke's / expected, no surprises,” asks Joseph Dorazio in his fourth poetry collection *No Small Effort*. His poems startle and intrigue us with art, antiquity, and mystery. They are meditations that compel us to pause in the midst of our in-auto-drive lives to ask questions (no small task). We are urged to strive for a fuller understanding about who we are and the place we consciously choose in our vulnerable world. It is a body of poems that offers noble inquiries filled with moxie and sting: “For what can we take into / that other orchard? Not / the sweetest nectar, / nor queen; we follow / pheromones unseen, / pollinate our young, and / all the waking pupae know of life / is simple / —they've been stung.”

Lisa Alexander Baron, author of *While She Poses and Reading the Alphabet of Trees*.

Brief. Brave. Bare. Just what is necessary to hold, turn and peel open your eyes, mind and heart. Who is really free, Dorazio asks. The fox whose life you just ended or you, entangled with the job and its ethical compromises piled one upon another till you are bound, “cozily enclosed / in a steel cage”? These are poems of vision containing just the necessary and essential truth.

Glenn R. McLaughlin, author of *Something Catches* and *Forms of Lectio*

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Jimmy Hostetter:

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Cathie Moss:

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