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What's Written on the Body

Peter Pereira



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"It's rare in contemporary poetry to find a book as boldly celebratory as Peter Pereira's new collection."—Chase Twichell

In *What's Written on the Body*, physician Peter Pereira explores the body, medicine, wordplay, gardening, family, and domestic gay life, often drawing from his experience as a community clinic doctor in Seattle.

An avid Scrabble player, anagrammer, and cruciverbalist, Pereira opens the collection with a delightful selection of wordplay poems, as a counterpoint to poems recounting the day-to-day practice of a family physician, from suturing a wound in the ER to extracting an eraser from a child's nose.

From "Body Talk":

Do you hear how the scalp claps? How the heart contains the earth, yet is also a hater? How saliva is lava, while testicles sit elect for their slice test...

Peter Pereira is a family physician in Seattle, where he cares for an urban, underserved population of immigrants, refugees, housing project residents, and the elderly. His first book won the Hayden Carruth Award, and his individual poems have appeared in a wide range of publications, including *Poetry*, *USA Weekend*, and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

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