

### Synopsis from the publisher:

Eating Mythos Soup--poemstories for Laura is a collection of fifty-two wild and diverse stories, ranging from everyday life to every night dreams. They are about the tellers' fears and hopes, their guilt and joy. Some of the stories have tidy plots; others are mood pieces. They are about birthing and dying, food and breast milk, and sex and love. They're about working and dreaming and the human heart and mind. Some of the storytellers are modern and specific--a virgin buying lingerie at Macys. Others are archetypal--a clown in a bear suit. But they are all as human as can be.

What connects these stories by all these different tellers is that the stories are all told to Laura. Each story is prefaced by a description of this remarkable woman. And who is Laura? She is the powerful, raw, beautiful, and very much alive receiver of all these stories. She is sexual and nourishing. She loves to laugh and she's what's known in some cultures as a filth eater. Her role is to hear the most profound, secret, dark stories of people, and to swallow these stories and digest them and excrete them. She is what she eats. She revels in the stuff of human dreams.

Eating Mythos Soup is unflinching and fun. It takes great joy in language and in the human spirit. There is a shocker--the jolt that comes from the candid truth--on every page. With all its wit and power, Eating Mythos Soup, is wise, encouraging humans to accept themselves and be who they are, to tell their stories and live their lives fully.

## Reviews:

From RebeccasReads.com:



Eating Mythos Soup

Kim Pearson

(Reviewed by The Editor - Rebecca Brown)

2000 Fithian Press

Poemstories for Laura, a being to whom all people tell their stories. She is a shape-shifter, an angel, a guide & her role is to eat the stories people give her.

The stories in Eating Mythos Soup are wild & exotic, still & brilliant, daydreams & nightmares & Laura devours them all.

"Laura has discovered the way to peace and waits for you to join her. She spreads her flowers and leaves on the path and sits by the sea waiting quietly for you to come, which you will. She sniffs the air, delicate as a deer, and snuffs huh, huh with recognition as she smells you. She smiles and her teeth glisten like small round pearls, dripping with Greek wine and flowers. Her breath smells of wine and acid. Like the breezes from the Aegean it tells you of life and decay." The 52 poemstories, sizzling with imagery & metaphor, are alive with the joy of language. They come from all sorts of people, a gardener, a purple witch, an accountant, a clown & they are filled with

hope, sex, guilt, dung, fear & love.

Earthy & intensely spiritual at the same time, *Eating Mythos Soup* is not a book to be gobbled at one sitting. It is a feast of sumptuous stories to return to, again & again, becoming entranced with Laura's attributes & then the thrill of the stories.

From *The Story of a Purple Witch*: "Porphyria dreamed purple dreams all her life, but no one knew this until the end, not even her. Until she was fifty, her life was a medium shade of gray. I knew her; I sold her oranges and limes from time to time. Never a drop of purple fell from her skin to tell me what color she really was."

I met Kim Pearson at the Seattle October BookFest & she gladly offered me a signed copy of *Eating Mythos Soup* when I could not get my eyes out of it, even as she was speaking to me! It could have as easily been catalogued in the Religious & Spiritual or Literature & Fiction genres as in Women's Books -- except that *Eating Mythos Soup* is an immersion, like a mikvah, in the feminine.

This is a book I would give to every one of my women friends because the stories are richly lyrical & evocative, & the language spellbinding!

Rebecca

Review From The Beltane Papers, Summer 2000:

Within these 52 poemstories for Laura, you will experience Laura. You will see Her, you will hear Her, you will smell Her, you will taste Her, you will touch Her. Ms. Pearson's command of metaphor and imagery will enable you to experience Laura, to experience yourself. Although the book appears to be a small volume, it is not a quick nor a light read. I was able to read only a couple of stories at a time, then my mind took off. These poemstories are a jumping-off point for meditation, for reflection. As you read each story, you discover more about yourself.

Your sense of separated self, you small puny oh-so-afraid ego self, is not the size of Laura's shell pink fingernail. Laura loves your little ego even so, he tastes so good, she pops him into her plump brown mouth and sucks him clean and nibbles him down. He yields up all his stories in blessed relief, and Laura swallows him, all the pieces she has made of him, and he travels along with all the rest of the puny little morsels Laura has eaten, down down the long dark tunnels of Laura's intestines, and is finally shat into the dark loamy fertile compost pile, to be born again as a flower of enormous beauty.  
(p.33)

With each story, you experience a little bit more of life. You come out of each story with those oh-too-few-and-far-between "ahas" that we sometimes get in life. You try to piece it all together, but you can't because it's not about putting it all together or figuring it all out, it's about taking it all apart and savoring each morsel.

You expect Laura to make sense, and you are always disappointed. Laura makes no sense. Nothing is connected, nothing is real. Laura is the connection and the reality. She is the paradox that leads to mystery. Mystery is the only reality within the world of Laura. (p. 38)

Eating Mythos Soup is incomparable to anything that I've ever read before. It is experiential, sensual, raw. Reading it, I couldn't help but wonder how I could have missed all of the life in my life, the taste of a sweet, crisp apple as I bite into it, the warmth of the sun on my face when I peel myself away from my computer to go outside, the dirt between my toes when I dig in my ever-so-neglected garden. Eating Mythos Soup is a reminder to savor the little everyday experiences that make up your life. Life isn't the few momentous occasions that happen so rarely – it's everything else that happens in between that we seem to sometimes forget.