

Burnt Island

D. Nurkse

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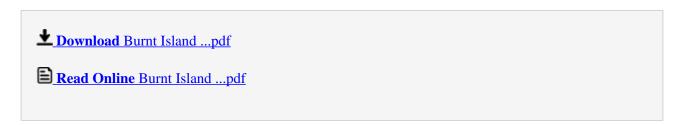
Burnt Island D. Nurkse

D. Nurkse's *Burnt Island* explores tragedy both grand and intimate, in city and country, in our own troubled moment and across the greater scope of geological time. Arranged in three "suites" of lucid, often heartwrenching verse, the book begins with a city under siege, in a group of poems that becomes a subtle homage to New York after 9/11–a metaphorical "burnt island," where diggers doze on their shovels, citizens contribute bottles of water, M&M's, and casseroles to recovery efforts, and survivors, mesmerized by the photos of the missing, compare them "scar by scar with the faces of the living." Nurkse then takes up the journey of a couple starting again in nature at a specific place called Burnt Island, where the elements instruct them, seeming to mirror their conflicts and strife. Finally, in a charming and profound series of poems centered on marine ecology, he finds the infinite in the infinitesimally small, and offers us, in sparkling, mysterious verses, the strange comfort that comes with observing the life of the ocean.

we are like you
because we are born by the billions
and float into the open ocean—
..............
we live another second
or much less, less than a blink,
until the code comes to know itself
and the mind dreams another mind
that will survive it
there, in the bright curtain of spray.

From the Hardcover edition.

(from "The Granite Coast")



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From reader reviews:

Celia Redmond:

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Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled Burnt Island? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Claudia Weidner:

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