

The Guardian's Dawn

Inga Ravna Eira

The author, has followed a trail back to the past in order to find values that might comfort us and make us feel secure. We are forced to stop and think about what the consequences of climate change might mean for us in the future.

The poem, "Driving", is, as the title suggests, about driving the reindeer herd, while, "Pure White Doe", describes a sunny day in the mountains.

"The Heart Did Beat", deals with the ancestors' instruction to take care of and protect the earth, while "The Power of the Gods", describes how the Gods are able to demonstrate their power.

In "I Glimpsed My Forefathers", the poem's "I" is made aware of certain values.

"Doggi lággá", deals with reindeer intestines and their uses, and in, "My Creator", the poem's "I" gives thanks for the fact that life still prevails.

«The book is a reflection of the many layers of double communication that is the essence of Sámi poetry and what makes the yoik verses unique. The book challenges the reader to listen to and feel the heartbeat of Sámi life of a bygone era – in the herding of reindeer, in nature's pantry, and in the nature of human survival. The book opens spiritual doors – not doors that can be seen with the naked eye, but those that release your emotions. When even primitive humans no longer remember or have knowledge,

the poems' voices make an appeal for faith in the forces that exist in spirituality. The poems follow the traces of Sámi cultural heritage and values from the earliest times to the present day. The content of the book helps us see how the basis of Sámi life has changed and at what cost. Previously, the Sámi tolerated insults and being trampled on without objection. In recent times, the Sámi have risen up together to oppose abuse and demand justice.»

Nordic Council

This book has been nominated for the Nordic Council's prize for literature 2021.



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Inga Ravna Eira was born into a reindeer-herding family in Karasjok, Norway, where she still lives. She worked her whole life as a teacher, but is now retired. Her first book was published in 1979, since when she has published dozens of books in various genres.