



Kith

By Divya Victor

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Kith By Divya Victor

A complex and moving array of imagistic arguments-with-history about skin, postcolonialism, travel, exile, fluids, and cultural materialism.

Kith describes postcolonialist relation from the painful psychohistorical perspective of a hybrid, in multiple exiles. Victor reaps the pain, reams the pain, approaches the painful material from striated vantages, using discrete methodologies of extraction. This is not a pretty poetry of nostalgia for bittersweet pungencies, no invitation to savor bemusing exoticisms; this poetry invites disassociation from that which is no longer to be borne.

From “Dromomania”:

in one such case a woman embroidering the name of her fourth child into the mantelpiece tapestry was called by her husband to suckle oil from the Persian gulf in a city that clotted around a oasis where centuries ago star crossed lovers failed each other— Layla and Majnun: she dying in waiting, he walking miles and kissing every wall to know if she lived behind it— and from which she would return without her hair and with a spool of thread to spell again

— later this story was told to children in a kitchen while
smoothing the ruffled mackerel gills and sharpening knives on grey slabs
of granite drawn from a quarry where men had fallen over and over in love
with their own destinies

Divya Victor is the author of *Natural Subjects*, *UNSUB*, and *Things to Do with Your Mouth*. Her criticism has appeared in *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, *Jacket2*, and the Poetry Foundation’s *Harriet*. She lives in Singapore, and is assistant professor of poetry and writing at Nanyang Technological University.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Divya Victor is the author of *Natural Subjects* (Trembling Pillow, 2014, winner of the Bob Kaufman Award), *UNSUB* (Insert Blanc, 2015), *Things to Do with Your Mouth* (Les Figuees, 2014), *Swift Taxidermies 1919–1922* (GaussPDF, 2014), *Goodbye John! On John Baldessari* (GaussPDF, 2012), *PUNCH* (GaussPDF, 2011), and the *Partial* trilogy (Troll Thread, 2011-2012). Her chapbooks include *Hellocasts* by Charles Reznikoff by Divya Victor by Vanessa Place (2011) and *SUTURES* (2009). Her criticism and commentary have appeared in *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies*, *Jacket2*, and the Poetry Foundation's *Harriet*. Her work has been collected in the New Museum's *The Animated Reader*, the reedition of bpNichol's *Translating Translating Apollinaire*, *Crux: Journal of Conceptual Writing*, *Hobo*, *VLAK*, *The Best American Experimental Writing*, and *boundary2*, among other venues. Her poetry has been translated into French and Czech. She has been a Mark Diamond Research Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, a Riverrun Fellow at the Mandeville Poetry Collections at University of California San Diego, and a writer in residence at the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibit (LACE). She lives in the United States and Singapore, where she is assistant professor of poetry and writing at Nanyang Technological University.

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