

“Tarfia Faizullah is a poet of brave and unflinching vision.”—Natasha Trethewey

Registers of Illuminated Villages

Poems

TARFIA FAIZULLAH

Registers of Illuminated Villages is Tarfia Faizullah’s highly anticipated second collection, following her award-winning debut, *Seam*. Faizullah’s new work extends and transforms her powerful accounts of violence, war, and loss into poems of many forms and voices—elegies, outcries, self-portraits, and larger-scale confrontations with discrimination, family, and memory. One poem steps down the page like a Slinky; another poem responds to makeup homework completed in the summer of a childhood accident; and the near-title poem, “Register of Eliminated Villages,” suggests illuminated texts, one a Qur’an in which the speaker’s name might be found, and the other a register of 397 villages destroyed in northern Iraq. Faizullah is an essential new poet, whose work only grows more urgent, beautiful, and—even in its unsparing brutality—full of love.

**Somebody is always singing. Songs
were not allowed. Mother said,
Dance and the bells will sing with you.
I slithered. Glass beneath my feet. I
locked the door. I did not
die. I shaved my head. Until the horns
I knew were there were visible.
Until the doorknob went silent.**

—from “100 Bells”

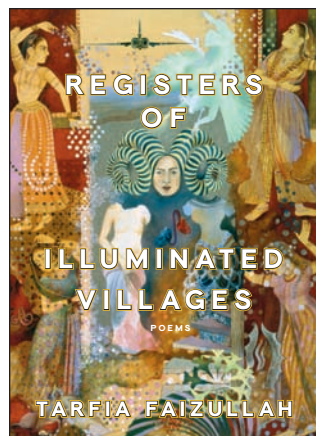
Praise for *Seam*

“How thin the seam between this fierce book and all the poet’s country-people who haven’t lived to read it. Faizullah has made a courageous and shaming book.”

—Jean Valentine

“*Seam* feels unusually honest and exceptionally rich.”

—Slate



Poetry, 96 pages, 6½ x 9

Paperback, \$16.00

March

978-1-55597-800-6

Ebook Available

Brit., trans., audio, dram.:

Graywolf Press

1st ser.: Author c/o Graywolf Press

TARFIA FAIZULLAH is the author of *Seam*, winner of a VIDA Award and a Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. She teaches at the University of Michigan and lives in Detroit.