

Reader Views

Book reviews, for readers, by readers.

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Sightlines: A Poet's Diary

By Janet Grace Riehl

iUniverse (2006)

Reviewed by Irene Watson for Reader Views (4/06)

After the tragic accidental death of her sister, poet Janet Riehl takes pen to paper and writes her way through her grief. Riehl's compilation of poetry touches on one year of healing, taking the reader back to the beginning when notified of her sister's death, to recollections of her sister, through the health and life issues surrounding her aging parents, and finally to the acceptance of her sister's death.

*There are many layers of grief,
and each of us grieves in our own way.
Bereft – shorn, torn open, last year.*

Riehl's recorded journey is deep and heartwarming, yet, sad and contemplative. Each piece takes the reader deep within themselves and encourages a personal search for their own feelings of hurt, pain, and grief.

*Of course we know the sun
isn't really rising.
This phase is a remnant
from when we thought the world was flat.
And if we sailed too far,
we'd drop off the edge of the world.*

Although a personal journey for Riehl, I felt "Sightlines" taking me on my own passage through life; remembering those that were here and now gone, giving gratitude for where I am today and looking forward to my own continued journey.