

*I know not a word here.
I am the experience.*



ABOUT THE POEM:

In her debut poetry book, Nicole Justine Reid offers us this epic existential poem, which deftly explores the human-divine experience in a lyrical contemporary style, traveling through such themes as the nature of existence, time, truth, what it means to be a spirit in a body, and the search for Self in all its forms. "I watch the faces in the water,/looking for myself," she writes, and, "It is a solitary thing,/floating/Timeless, without body./Without fever."

At times deep and pensive, at times playful, it asks questions of the soul's evolution throughout its human lives, exploring love and fear, life and death, reason and intuition, and the search for self-truth and self-power. "Who is the dinner and who is the diner?/In this fierce world we allow no such thing/as the being of both/when in fact,/we are./On nights when the chilly wind creeps in,/we find ourselves/hovering over ourselves."

Ultimately, it offers a journey of how we navigate the push and pull of life on earth throughout time as we strive to sate our soul's deepest calling—the full experience of being and the expression of existence itself.



ABOUT THE POET:

Nicole Justine Reid is a poet, writer, artist, channel, and observer-explorer of the human-spiritual experience. Her poetry is published in *Sixfold* and *Carry the Light* anthologies II, III, IV, and elsewhere, was shortlisted for the Bridport Prize three times, and selected as a finalist in the Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards. She loves immersing herself in the salt of the sea and in the ocean of her being.

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The Confounding of Consciousness

a poem

Nicole Justine Reid