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## Voodoo Shop

**Review:** Poetry that takes a magic journey through Bondi beach and supermarkets

Voodoo Shop • Ruth Padel • Chatto and Windus • Out Now

### In Short

Is it poetry, is it prose? It doesn't matter, since the object here is not to categorise but simply enjoy. For those who thought they didn't like poetry, here is the collection to turn the tables.

### Review

A poetic love story, taking in everything from cosmic musings on dark stars to the piano buying habits of Tori Amos. Taken on their own, Ruth Padel's poems are by turns funny, touching and deeply moving. Taken together, the reader is taken on a magical journey.

Along the way we eavesdrop on conversations, reminiscences, and you can't help but get swept along for the ride. It's a journey through time and space, metaphor and actuality, taking in some unorthodox cooking methods after a trip to the supermarket (Home Cooking) and finding time for fights on the beach (Surf Rage on Bondi Beach). At the same time, it contains ethereal and touching musings on the oldest of subjects, love and death.

This is an extremely readable and accessible work of poetry, and perhaps one which will entice readers back into what is considered by many to be a 'difficult' genre. The poems in this book, and the work as a whole, are truly magical, beautifully constructed and hugely entertaining.

As if that wasn't enough, the sheer scale of the thing means that there is an access point for any reader, be it the talk of well-known bookshops or supermarkets or the talk of worlds and universes, gods and mountains, loving and leaving.

### The Verdict

Definitely a must read – for the uninitiated, it's an easy and fulfilling introduction to poetry, and for the fan, it's at the same time a glorious work of intricate detail and expansive scale.

Anthony Dhanendran

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