



INSECLUDED RECESSES

**Poems by
Doris Vernon**

Whitman's "shy and hidden bird" warbles through all these poems, which appear to reach from behind a curtain to tweak our awareness and jar us with strange possibilities. Although Vernon's vision is dark, she brings a whimsical insight to the tragedies of old age, mental deterioration, and the unfathomable cruelty of gods.

Joyce La Mers

Several of the poems are poignant and chilling. Many of the poems are dark but they often end with a humorous surprise line. Ms. Vernon offers her own delicious solution to the family's dysfunction.

Elnora McNaughton

Doris Vernon pierces to the core and exposes mental and emotional frailties we all possess. She helps us understand, empathize and tolerate ourselves and each other.

Dean W. Smith, M.D.

The joy, beauty and sadness that is Doris is uniquely reflected and realized through the finely crafted poems in this collection. Doris' compelling and personal insight into life is crystal, dark and humorous. From outside of Granny's privy to Gloria's spittle-wet kiss that "tingles like a wound sponged with vinegar", Doris tells us of life bitter and sweet. She tells us of a young woman's wonder tempered with an old woman's vision of working on the atomic bomb in Oakridge, Tennessee. Other poems tell of a woman painting "happy faces" where her breasts had been and, of course, the ever present sacred Eucharist enveloped in the dark wine sky, the moon. This book is a celebration created through day to day sensibility and struggle of this very generous and special woman's life.

Phil Taggart

Doris Vernon has written a life in spare poems detailing her journey from East Tennessee to full maturity on the West Coast. These poems arrive without fussiness, and speak directly of joys and sorrows.

Jackson Wheeler

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