

Some Thoughts:

New poetry book: Colours of my Heart/ by Surjeet Kalsey

Poems in Surjeet Kalsey's new poetry book "*Colours of My Heart*" portray picture and mannerism in which women are being treated in our society even now while living in the most advanced countries.

In this solitude - broken things/your body did not leave the house./I was punished to live/with a dead body/which silently was eroding/ my energies my self-esteem/and was stealing my soul!" This plaint from the poem 'Living with the dead' illustrates the poet's sombre reflections on vagaries of life. Another poem 'The Priority' dwells upon the manner in which women are treated in the society. However, if you are under the impression that this is an anthology of laments, banish the thought. There is a streak of feminist assertiveness in the poems like "An Incarnation of the Kali" and 'A Warrior' when she proclaims, "*I am a woman warrior/who believes in Self/and only in myself/and does not need Krishna/to be my charioteer/and utter sermons from the Gita*". The feminist motif is predominant in this collection, as typified by the poem 'I don't intend' (85). The term 'feminist' here is used in the sense more as a woman's awareness of its rights and her rightful place in the society. The poet also portrays other moods ranging from reflections on lunar waxing and waning to self-abnegation.

- Brig R K Sharma

The Tribune Chandigarh, 29 May 2011

Colours of my Heart

"Surjeet Kalsey's new book of poems 'Colours of My Heart' is an introspective perspective of the plight of all women. Kalsey's selection and placement of words weaves a poetic pathway that awakens and heightens the reader's senses. Her use of colour as a definition for emotion paints from a palette all women can identify with a world where men and women betray each other, i.e.: 'Jealousy' ...so they prey on other women's partners; with exotic lingerie and vodka, they hunt their prey, and suck on male vulnerabilities... Her writing is provocative, hopeful and empowering."

- Valerie B.-Taylor

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Colours of My Heart by Surjeet Kalsey, Tarlochan Publishers Chandigarh, 2011 Pages: 96. Rs. 160 (India) Canada/USA \$15 + mailing cost

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