

“Raw, visceral, and powerful, each word in Walrath’s poems is selected with the care of a surgeon for the perfect incision. It is a journey we all walk and this is its handbook.”

—**Christina Sng**, Bram Stoker award-winning author of
A Collection of Nightmares

April 15, 2021

Dear Reader,

Expanding on the success of her award-winning chapbook *Glimmerglass Girl*, Houston poet Holly Walrath’s first full-length collection **THE SMALLEST OF BONES** (CLASH Books | Sept. 26 | PB | \$14.95 | ISBN: 978-1-944866-95-2) uses the language of classical anatomy to reveal short, concentrated meditations on the body and its many ghosts.

Throughout these poems, Walrath confronts *neurosexism*, or the practice of claiming that there are fixed differences between female and male bodies which can explain women’s inferiority. “I started reading old anatomy books and studying the so-called biological differences in the bones of men and women,” Walrath says, “which led to the ‘spine’ of the book, titled after different bones in the body and how those bones differ between the sexes, according to science and pseudoscience.”

Threaded throughout are fantastical ghosts, demons, and other haunting images of body horror that pull the reader’s focus onto the subjects of grief, lust, gender, and sexuality. Poet Stephanie Wytovich has called it “a blossoming of bones and the trauma we hold inside, a gorgeous homage to the fever dreams and nightmares we collect, break, and survive with each and every day.”

Holly Lyn Walrath’s chapbook *Glimmerglass Girl* (2018) won the SFPA Elgin Award, and her writing appears in *Strange Horizons*, *Fireside Fiction*, *Daily Science Fiction*, *Liminality*, and *Analog*. She holds a B.A. in English from The University of Texas and a Master's in Creative Writing from the University of Denver. You can find her canoeing the bayou in Houston, Texas, on Twitter @HollyLynWalrath, or at www.hlwalrath.com.

The Smallest of Bones is an astonishing new collection. I hope you will consider covering it and its author this fall.

Very best,

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