



VITA
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Poems

Marc Nair

Vital Possessions
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For Carolyn

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Sometimes, an ocean
only appears when we break
through brick, its burdens

Twice Daily

please take a seat on any bench you see; the path to the garden lies beyond, but there will be a queue, you understand. You may sip on an ixora while you wait. Take in the air, heavy with damp after a shower, rich with the commingled earth. It's perfectly fine to feel drowsy, but remember, this should be done every day for the rest of your life, unless you prefer an evening cocktail of capsules. Once inside, a praying mantis will open proceedings with a quick word unto the Gardener, to give us this day our daily bloom, to bless our tendrils, to bless our hanging roots, to forgive those who pluck flowers, to forget those who step on snails in the left lane. Then, you may freely wander and contemplate while digesting that sandwich of urban bustle; no need to reserve seats here. Stop; breathe.

For yours is the garden, the sun and the shade;
for as long as you have your lunch hour.

Greenhouse Guesses

Is there darkness in the sheaves
Is there choking in the leaves
Is there pollen in the smoke
Is there creeping on the road

Will your day forget its roots
Will your flesh fall from the fruit
Will your stories stick in sap
Will your savings mind the gap

Was there light enough to see
Was there thunder from the trees
Was there shouting as we cracked
Was there ever a way back

Did we pull life up from weeds
Did we never stop to seed
Did we silence this refrain
Did we break the glass again

Part of this work was created during the
2015 Writer-In-Residence programme at
Gardens by the Bay, Singapore.

With deepest thanks to Aaron Lee and
Mrigaa Sethi, my earliest editors, whose feedback
helped a motley collection find its feet.

And for Kah Gay and the team at Ethos Books,
thank you for taking a chance, once again,
on the improbable cause of poetry.

Also by Marc Nair

Along The Yellow Line

Chai: Travel Poems

Postal Code

Animal City

The Poet of Unlove

Spomenik

Intersection

Auguries of Modern Innocence



About the Author

Marc Nair is a poet and photographer who has published five individual collections of poetry and three collaborative books with illustrators, photographers and visual artists. His work exists between the streets of other cities and on trains that leave at all hours. He is a recipient of the 2016 Young Artist Award.

About Ethos Books

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