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Title: The Apple Speaks: Poems. By Becca J. R. Lachman

Author(s): Todd Davis .

Source: Mennonite Quarterly Review.

Document Type: Book review

Article Preview :

The Apple Speaks: Poems. By Becca J. R. Lachman. Telford, Pa.: Cascadia Publishing House. 2012. Pp. 94. \$12.95. In her compelling debut collection, poet Becca J.R. Lachman asks, "Can we really write out how this world aches, how the heart will / never stop planting its questions?" (29). Raised in a Mennonite family in Kidron, Ohio, Lachman was taught to sing and lead hymns by her mother, a minister of music who makes frequent appearances throughout the book, providing a contrapuntal harmony to Lachman's own melodious writing. Many poems in the volume pay loving homage to the life and community in which Lachman was raised. The poet looks backward in "What My Parents Gave Me" to claim "the tremor of [her father's] voice box ... [his] honeyed tenor," as she confesses to "wanting to touch that place, to / cup it in my fingers" (22), and in "My Mother as Minister of Music," she describes how her mother was transformed by a sojourn to Africa where she would dance "joy-filled to the pulpit" to "sing out in languages she'd never known" (58). While Lachman's writing certainly affirms her faith, as an artist she does not dismiss the reality of

doubt or shy away from writing honestly about certain strictures of religious dogma she chafes against, as the final questioning lines of "An Anabaptist Learns Tai Chi" suggest: "Are we saved? ... Are we saved?" In fact, Lachman's poetry is at its best when she is asking those unanswerable and elusive questions that trouble her faith and her place in the Mennonite world....

**Source Citation** (MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Davis, Todd. "The Apple Speaks: Poems. By Becca J. R. Lachman." *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, vol. 87, no. 4, 2013, p. 614+. *Academic OneFile*, Accessed 23 July 2018.

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