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Reading Barry MacSweeney

By Paul Batchelor

Bloodaxe Books Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Reading Barry MacSweeney, Paul Batchelor, Barry MacSweeney was described as 'a contrary, lone wolf.[whose] ear for a soaring lyric melody was unmatched' (Nicholas Johnson, Independent). MacSweeney found fame with his first book, *The Boy from the Green Cabaret Tells of his Mother*, which appeared when he was just nineteen years old. But he soon retreated from the publicity, and for almost thirty years his poetry appeared only in small press publications. Identifying himself with Chatterton and Rimbaud, MacSweeney developed a poetics based on experiment and excess, from the fragmented lyricism of 'Brother Wolf' to the political anger of 'Jury Vet'; from the dizzying historical perspectives of *Ranter* to the nightmarish urban landscape of *Hellhound Memos*. In 1997, MacSweeney once again found a wider audience, with the publication of his last full-length book, *The Book of Demons*, which recorded his fierce fight against alcoholism. This book also included *Pearl*, a sequence of tender lyrics celebrating the poet's first love and his rural Northumbrian childhood. At the time of his death in 2000, MacSweeney was preparing a retrospective selection of his work for publication. When *Wolf Tongue: Selected Poems 1965-2000* appeared in 2003,...

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