# So Far Afield (Paperback)



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#### Reviews

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(Mallie Ondricka)

## SO FAR AFIELD (PAPERBACK)



Nomadic Press, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Poetry. LGBTQIA Studies. SO FAR AFIELD is a poetic study into the queer nature of love among men--a gay love that s been called contra naturam—tracing their wild desires, spiritual connections, and unspoken encounters, from seaside to cemetery. With a voice both musical and broken, Speers debut collection incorporates classical lyric forms with a contemporary elliptical style to create new narratives about our old world--a world that keeps on falling in love, even as it s falling apart. SO FAR AFIELD is a rarity: a new work of art that is truly, ardently, memorably, about love. Frederick Speers well-told narratives of a gay man in this time and this place rotate like planets around that central, generative reality, love itself. This serious, lyrical, splendidly imagined book is entirely contemporary and at the same time a descendant (and in one poem, an inspired translator) of Catullus. --Robert Pinsky SO FAR AFIELD is a love song to queer love, to love itself, to loss, to language in its swishing of senses: .yet so positive / (Who doesn t love a lost cause?) His intricate self-interrupting syntax twines aubade to elegy, wit to lushness. His rotting lemons stand for all lovely being, being undone. Within the gorgeous wordplay there s a stark determination to make things clear, starting with ourselves. His book is a gift of hard- won knowledge. A ravishing debut. --Rosanna Warren The capacity of men to love--and to love each other--intimately, with tender affection and abandon, is a constant theme in the poems of Frederick Speers gregariously fragile and yawp-ish first collection, SO FAR AFIELD. As such, Walt Whitman is a presiding spirit / companion, but so, too, is James Schuyler in the poems keenly observant, descriptive spokenness;...



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