



A Little White Shadow

By Mary Ruefle

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Selectively painting over much of a forgotten nineteenth-century book, Ruefle's ninth publication brings new meaning to an old story. What remains visible is delicate poetry: artfully rendered, haunted by its former self, yet completely new. A high-quality replica of the original aged, delicate book in which Ruefle "erased" the text, this book will appeal to fans of poetry as well as visual art.

Mary Ruefle is the author of *Madness, Rack, and Honey: Collected Lectures*, a finalist for the 2012 National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism (Wave Books, 2012), and *Selected Poems* (Wave Books, 2010), winner of the William Carlos Williams Award. She has published ten other books of poetry, a book of prose (*The Most of It*, Wave Books, 2008), and a comic book, *Go Home and Go to Bed!*, (Pilot Books/Orange Table Comics, 2007); she is also an erasure artist, whose treatments of nineteenth century texts have been exhibited in museums and galleries, and include the publication of *A Little White Shadow* (Wave Books, 2006). Ruefle is the recipient of numerous honors, including an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and a Whiting Award. She lives in Bennington, Vermont, and teaches in the MFA program at Vermont College.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Alongside her justly known poems, Ruefle (*Tristimania*, 2003) also crafts what she calls "erasures," found texts from which she has crossed out almost all the words, leaving only a tiny poem's worth per page; the latter make up this book. In this pocket-sized reproduction of a whited-out 19th-century volume, Ruefle etches haiku-like minifables, sideways aphorisms, and hauntingly perplexing koans ("the dead/ borrow so little from/ the past/ as if they were alive") from what must have been an unusual text to begin with (Ruefle borrows the book's original title). As much a statement about the act of reading as the act of writing, this is a strange and lovely work by a singular poet. (*May 1*)

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About the Author

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