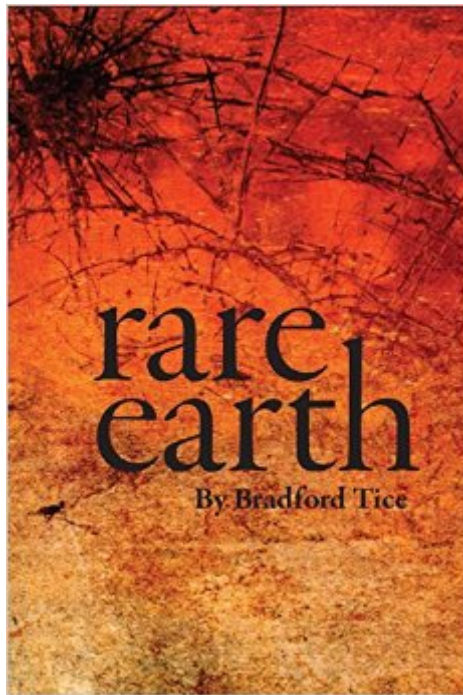


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# Rare Earth (Many Voices Project)



## Synopsis

The poems in this collection, *Rare Earth*, reveal a person in crisis, grappling with faith, identity, sexuality, mortality, and self-worth. Bradford Tice reveals how family can heal and harm, sometimes in the same gesture.

## Book Information

Series: Many Voices Project (Book 127)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,399,219 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Places](#) #207 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#) #239 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Death, Grief & Loss](#)

## Customer Reviews

Bradford Tice's *Rare Earth* truly is "as obvious as the wordplay is" a rare find, a diverse collection of intense poetry with interconnecting threads. The visceral imagery of this collection of poetry explores the pains and ecstasies of discovering one's self and coming out of the closet as a homosexual man in the South. Tice's verses work through the pain of loss and love, the vulnerability of not being accepted, and the desire for youth. *Rare Earth* powerful lines are seeping with sex, full of an almost overwhelming amount of phallic imagery and haunting memories. The earthy, almost grisly, images Tice conjures reflect a theme of this collection, the connection to the natural, visceral earth. *Rare Earth*'s greatest power lies in two series of poetry, one exploring the demonization of mythical "ædemonic" spirits and one connecting the changing nature of elements to Tice's own life. Tice delves into the imagery surrounding these misunderstood spirits and makes them into real, pained creatures. The humanity and subtle characterization Tice is able to achieve is stunning. The thread of metallurgy, the exploration of metal through an alchemistic lens, is beautiful and is contained in many more poems than the series specifically

labeled as elemental. While Rare Earth's imagery is vibrant and the scenes Tice creates are vivid, the internal focus of many of the poems comes across as rather self-indulgent. Not to be too hard on Tice, but the intense amount of homoerotic imagery can turn from a serious discussion and relation of passion to a game of: can you count all the phallic symbols in this stanza?

Part 1 of "Trade in the New World" Once the divorce went through, all parties signed, the rains stopped. My mother, not wanting a used-up space, moved back into the room she'd grown up in, us with her--as from the heat of my grandmother's attic, brown recluses unspooled from the ceiling on ropes of silver. As spiders wove their pocketbooks of eggs into folds of our clothes, the dark of unused shoes, I came to know the weight of a man--my cheek raw with the razor-burn of my first boyfriend. All I can recall of him is dread, exposure. Mother packed boxes into corners, and each of us tucked away secrets, a sadness, the faint whispers of crickets in wicker cages. As I learned how flesh slowly withers around the twin punctures, my brother Josh dreamed in fevered sweats. Spiders would paralyze his senses, wrap him in their silks of sleep. Mother wanted us to share our uncle's former room. I refused--would not share a bed. Josh cried, feeling, I'm sure, all the more lost. How could I explain the terror I felt--the saboteur inside saying, TOO CLOSE, TOO CLOSE? I thought I knew love's heft in my palm, its properties, formula. What could I become? Alone in my room I listened to Josh's terror--a life held by threads--grow large in the dark as I spun tapestries of my own future as I intended to live it--reclusive, free of the ones I could stun with a kiss. In that room, I locked a door--as under the trim of the walls, spiders with their fiddles shuffled in.

Rare Earth by Bradford Tice is a uniquely visceral but captivating collection of poetry. Ranging from mythos to experience, the book is like taking a handful of earth and examining all the contents from the fresh grass to the ancient rocks and everything in between. The collection is not for those faint of heart looking for the pastoral nature of E.E. Cummings, but rather those who seek a deeper truth and meaning somewhere between Dante and punk-rock music. It'll intrigue and open your mind to thinking about sexuality, faith, and the self and how they all connect. Combined with titles like "Homunculus" and element names, it draws all the themes together in a way that grounds it to the earth, and the wholeness of what being apart of the earth and all its history means. Rare Earth is a rare collection indeed, which for the right person will become a cherished favorite and passed hand to hand like bread for life. I encourage giving this earth a chance to seed.

Author Bradford Tice's poetry compilation, Rare Earth, is not for the faint of heart. In this 2013

New Rivers Press release (which is also a product of the publishers Many Voices Project), Tice bares his soul to the world as he documents the journey heâ™s taken through his young life through prose poetry. Each of the collections three sections are aptly titled âœHomunculus,â • âœPanacea,â • and âœTransmutation;â • each highlighting the different stages of Ticeâ™s life from adolescence to the present. Headings dripping with references to alchemy and healing. Within each of these sections, the subject matter ranges from Tice coming to terms with his own sexuality, the facets of spirituality, and struggles within his family. It is because of these themes that I would strongly not recommend the book to new or young readers, as itâ™s mature subject matter may prove too much for them. I would recommend it to fans of visceral, honest poetry, however, as Rare Earth is a tour de force of emotional prose.

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