



When She Was Bad

By Gabrielle Brant Freeman

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Lust. Love. Betrayal and loyalty. Temptation and hilarity. Gabrielle Freeman dissects her speakers' hearts, tenderly, with supreme attention to what it is to be human, female, and fierce. Gabrielle Freeman's poems are bad—by which I mean badass bold. Michael Jackson bad. Freeman's bad and you know it. That's why you read her. *When She Was Bad* is a smart, compassionate, tightly crafted and explosive debut. — Denise Duhamel

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Editorial Review

Review

Lust. Love. Betrayal and loyalty. Temptation and hilarity. Gabrielle Freeman dissects her speakers' hearts, tenderly, with supreme attention to what it is to be human, female, and fierce. Gabrielle Freeman's poems are bad-by which I mean badass bold. Michael Jackson bad. Freeman's bad and you know it. That's why you read her. When She Was Bad is a smart, compassionate, tightly crafted and explosive debut. -"Denise Duhamel, author of Blowout".

The poem of Gabrielle Freeman's When She Was Bad are by turns amorous, witty, fierce, ironic and erudite, but they are always sensual and often erotic. As the title suggests, Freeman explores the promises and surprises of the human heart, and her deft free verse addresses temptations, rewards and disappointments. Her bold inquiries sharpen both her eye and her tongue, but her first collection is far from single-minded, as she makes room for owls, spider wort, Bela Lugosi, Stephen King, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Renoir. When She Was Bad is entertaining and enlightening, and with its publication Gabrielle Freeman steps onto the stage in full voice, singing true. -"R.T. Smith, editor of Shenandoah Review and author of Messenger".

Gabrielle Freeman's When She Was Bad is about passion: sex, love, loss, life at its most elemental. One poem challenges, "Did you bare your neck or your teeth?" These poems bare neck and teeth. They are fierce and tender, and each poem so full of energy that the page can barely contain it. -"Suzanne Cleary, author of Beauty Mark Gabrielle".

Freeman's poetry is fecund, sensuous, and refreshing. I admire the strangeness in these poems-not a strangeness of obliquity or constructed befuddlement, but an unpredictability that ultimately clarifies, inducing empathy. In her poems I can hear "on the morning road . . . the cello's throat" as it "opens into a blur of birds and fog." Her poems transcend delicate transcription of events; instead, they entice and enrich, offer room for a reader's imagination to blossom with interpretation. These are pieces by a soul who understands the importance of the world behind the world, a place to which few gain access. -"William Wright, series editor of The Southern Poetry Anthology, and author of Tree Heresies".

This may be a first collection, but it doesn't feel like it. In a book filled with the brilliant observations of an amazing eye and mind, Gabrielle Freeman is thoroughly in command of her poetic instrument. The sensuousness and frank eroticism of these poems hold the attention of even the most easily distracted reader and keep us turning pages, as in a good novel. This is a book you are going to want to own. -"Richard Tillinghast, author of An Armchair Traveller's History of Istanbul: City of Remembering and Forgetting".

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Fomby:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled When She Was Bad. Try to face the book When She Was Bad as your buddy. It means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you more

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Nancy Lowery:

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Mark Klein:

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