



Floating, Brilliant, Gone

Franny Choi

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Beginning at loss and ending in reflective elation, *Floating, Brilliant, Gone* moves steadily through the many complicated textures of identity, anxiety, and absence. Using a language that is as volatile as the world it tries to occupy, these poems read like lucid dreams that jolt awake at the most unexpected moments. Like a ghost speaking from the ruins of memory, Choi's electrifying debut is at once fiercely imaginative and eerily familiar.

Floating, Brilliant, Gone Details

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Author : Franny Choi

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From Reader Review Floating, Brilliant, Gone for online ebook

Nathan Bartos says

3.5/5

So I actually just watched Choi perform yesterday when she opened in Ann Arbor for Mary Lambert, and I loved the poems she read a lot, and I think she's a great performer. Also, when I watched her perform some of the poems in this book on YouTube, they really benefitted from her performance (specifically "Pussy Monster"). I think maybe these poems suffered from being just read instead of listened to and watched. However, the subject matter is interesting and the word choice is beautiful, and I think Choi is so talented. I will definitely still be watching and reading anything of hers that I can get my hands on. Standouts: "Orientalism" and "Mud"

Mya says

Franny Choi is an incredibly dynamic poet; this collection never sits still in one form of poem, which makes her incredible use of language all the more exciting.

The book is dreamy yet hard hitting, a beautiful meandering through Choi's thoughts and larger themes of grief and identity.

Elizabeth says

4.5 stars. Strong power in the voice of these poems. The illustrations are a tremendous addition to the work. Cohesive collection.

Julia Purrington says

Amazing collection of poetry.

Bored to Death book club says

Franny Choi is a Korean American poet and "Floating, Brilliant, Gone" is her illustrious debut from Write Bloody Publishing. Jess X Chen's accompanying illustrations add a surreal and haunting element to an already moving set of poems. Deftly written, Choi maintains an exquisite range from the quietly stated to the urgent and impactful. She packs so much imagery in a single line, just look at this segment from "To the Man Who Shouted 'I Like Pork Fried Rice' at Me on the Street": *"a fever. dead meat. butchered girl"*. It's a fiercely powerful line as it stands against sexism and racist fetish.

But racism is not the only topic she speaks about, as she also tackles loss and grief like in her opening poem "Notes on the Existence of Ghosts." There's that first stanza that denotes the ghostly qualities of a sidewalk: *"Leaves stained onto the sidewalk from yesterday's storm create gray-green watermarks on the pavement, like the negatives of pressed flowers, or the ghost of a letterpress still whispering up from the page. A sidewalk is a haunted thing."* Choi can turn what is ordinary and usually ignored into such a striking and delicate metaphor. Her writing stains your skin and stays with you.

Yet there is a joy in her occasional irreverence like in *Ode to My Armpit Hairs*:

"...For so long, I thought myself
a rich douchebag's gardener- or else, hummed
India Arie and ignored your steady march,
claimed *liberated* but secretly calling myself
a negligent housewife..."

It's a silly ode but definitely a fun one. She even goes as far as to rearrange the words from Lil' Wayne's "*Pussy Monster*" in order of frequency. It's a clever piece on sexism in the mainstream and quite hilarious. Choi is quite inventive with her other poems, creating black out poetry, a flowchart, scientific analysis, a conversation and more. Overall, this is a significantly strong debut and marks the entrance of a poet who will remain someone to watch out for, for years to come.

Eileen Ramos is a Filipina-American writer with a deep, abiding love for words. This passion drives her to read, create, and absorb all she can. Let's hope it ends well. Read more by Eileen on her blog.

Angela says

This book is why Franny is my favorite poet. I loved everything about it, and would highly recommend it to anyone and everyone. It's beautiful, but in a violent way. It's sad, but in an uplifting way. It's full of contradictions, yet coherent somehow. I loved it.

Liz Janet says

I wish I had come across Franny Choi much before now, that way I would have been able to enjoy her slam poetry for longer. Much like the many people I love on Button Poetry, she either brings me joy with the activism through her words, or makes me extremely displaced with society at large. Both are acceptable feelings.

Her strength lies in her ability to portray and tackle racism and discrimination. Yes, her poetry tackles loss, and is funny, and there is even witty wordplay when related to "rap" music; the best is always her portrayal of issues affecting many differing groups. She speaks with truth and eloquence, and in a much more sympathetic manner than some people on news networks.

Listen to her poetry performed on YouTube, it is wonderful, and heart-hitting. You're welcome.

"For Peter Liang"

"Choi Jeong Min"

"Sweat"

"Pussy Monster"

Sarah Al Qassimi says

Floating, brilliant and here to stay.

Ariel says

Floating, Brilliant, Gone is, quite simply, the best book of poetry I've read this year (from a press that never fails to delight). Between the pages is a heart that takes a hit and then hits back, a breathless throat that croaks its way up to a howl and then a steady hum. These poems lay emptiness out on the table, take its measure, and sew it a new pair of clothes. At the book's core are explorations of loss, identity, love, the body, and their relationship to each other, carried along in a tide of words that swells and recedes with dreamlike elegance. To quote the writer, "sometimes entire libraries/ of epic poems land/ in your palm as a single/ paper-thin sigh. sometimes/ it is as simple as love" ("Metamorphosis"). Track down a copy and you'll be thanking yourself as soon as the first page.

Stephen says

LOVED IT!

Samantha says

3.75 stars. I've been listening to Franny Choi talk about poetry a lot, lately, and I finally got around to reading her book, which is a cool little grouping of poems and artwork by Jess X. Chen. I really appreciate this as a book of poems that don't all carry the same tone or style or subject - I think poets can become too fixated on a collection's cohesion, to the extent that it sort of dulls the book as a whole. This book's looser feel moves it along at a better pace. There are some misses, some pieces that don't feel as strongly crafted as others, but again, they're all different enough to keep readers interested. I look forward to Choi's future collections.

Dominic says

I may have even gotten a little dizzy on this wildly creative meditation on identity and culture. Choi is a creative writing teacher so the supplementary lesson plans online for teaching these poems were eye-opening and worth downloading.

M. Gaffney says

A lot of poets and readers of poetry are tired of birds. My advice, read Franny Choi! I'm ready to take flight. Excellent collection.

Arina says

If I could be the pages Franny Choi writes on, I'd dig myself into the earth and turn into pages.

Drew says

I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to find a poet in our generation who can speak about this depth of themes. Choi's use of imagery, her honesty and her ability to openly translate loss and sexuality make me admittedly envious of her writing skills. Combined with her visual poetry and collaboration with artist Jess X. Chen, Choi has delivered a powerhouse debut.

For those of you who fear this contemporary landscape of blog poets, fear not! Franny Choi has arrived!
