



# The Captain Lands in Paradise

*Sarah Manguso*

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## **The Captain Lands in Paradise** Sarah Manguso

Sarah Manguso's first collection, a combination of verse and prose poems, explores love, nostalgia, remorse, and the joyful and mysterious preparation for the discoveries of new lands, selves, and ideas. The voice is consistently spare, honest, understated, and eccentric.

## **The Captain Lands in Paradise Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2002 by Alice James Books (first published January 1st 2002)

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Author : Sarah Manguso

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## From Reader Review The Captain Lands in Paradise for online ebook

### Elizabeth says

Écrit il y a quelques années, ce recueil reste particulièrement intemporel, s'accroche au temps autant qu'il le laisse aller. On reconnaît les balbutiements de la Manguso des années 2010, avec ses images fortes, relevant pratiquement du folklore ainsi que sa fascination pour la mort, toujours présente.

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### Sarah says

Brilliant book filled with fantastic language and imagery. I found the earlier poems in the book stronger than the later ones, but all are worth a read.

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### Vincent Scarpa says

Some really great stuff here, but I much prefer her second collection, *Siste Viator*, which feels like it has more skin in the game, so to speak.

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### Jason says

Great poems make you wish you were a poet. Or, if you once were a poet, great poems make you miss being a poet in a way not unlike, I suspect, one might miss God if one no longer believed in God. And these poems -- most of them, that is -- do that. Too many of them are too inscrutable, and so (while often beautiful) are a touch too alienating to give the book five stars. But the poems in here that stun ("Beautiful Things," "Wild Goose Chase," "Address to Winnie in Paris," "What I Found," "The Bartender in Hell," "Glencoe," "Two Variations on a Theme by Stevens," "Space," "Cha-Cha," "The Snow," "The Barn" and "The Hurricane"), *stun*.

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### Allyson says

I just finished *Two Kinds of Decay* and feel drawn to read everything she has published in book form.

I admire her work, very much so.

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## **Tasha Cotter says**

Brilliant collection of poetry. I really like her work.

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## **Dawn says**

Like a primer when I began writing school and then like a "stone" because that's exactly what Jane M. said about using the word "stone" when you don't know shit.

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## **Helena says**

Holy fuck.

This is one of those books of poetry I keep next to my elbow while writing prose, so I can read it and be inspired when my own prose starts not to sound beautiful enough.

It's also one of those books of poetry that makes you desperate to be best friends with the author, and SURE that she would be your best friend, if only you could meet her.

Seriously. It's like having fantastic sex next to a half-open window on the first cold day of autumn. That's how good.

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## **unnarrator says**

Her first, the obviously-an-MFA-manuscript book. Which is not to say there aren't delightful and astonishing moments. But nothing that makes me have to put the book down because I am so blown away. Not yet anyway.

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## **Jim says**

I don't think I'd win many arguments trying to convince you that Sarah Manguso's poems are personal. They aren't vignettes or quotidian or breathless. There isn't much in the way of a persona lurking behind her poems. Quite the opposite, there's an almost airless quality. Like looking up at the heavens in a night filled with stars and this text starts scrolling down like the opening sequence to star wars. That's what Manguso's poetry is like. Not non-sequiturs or quips or even aphorisms. Just these perfect little one sentence broadcasts. Perfect and complete. "The part of the betrayal which wounds the most is hearing that it has already happened." "This is a picture of love: two gondolas in the dark." "It goes slowly, and when the great miracles come you fail to recognize them." I think she might be a seer. I think I need to go on a quest.

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**Kent says**

I'm interested in the way the imagination helps to spell out the wisdom in this book, and I'm assured of the imagination's strength in composing these poems, but I'm not sure how far they take me with their wisdom. And I feel that the speaker in these poems is very interested in making me understand what she has discovered.

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**Corin says**

3.5

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**Rachel says**

Great poetry. Even if you don't like poetry, you should try it. "Beautiful Things" is now one of my all-time favorite poems. Check it out:

**BEAUTIFUL THINGS**

Sometimes I think I understand the way things work  
And then I find out that on Neptune it rains diamonds.  
On this world you can get out of work early, unclog the drain,  
hear music. Any of the above should prove the existence  
of God or at least some kind of beautifying engine  
but in Germany when they couldn't figure out  
how to tranquilize the polar bear and he was standing  
in the park, the cage door broken, they shot him dead.  
Nine hundred pounds—that's a lot of dead bear.  
Neptune's pretty close to immortal,  
as we understand the word, and I wouldn't like to be  
that planet. But if I had to I would take it,  
the decades of punishing rain, and the fires  
on neighboring planets I would watch,  
thankful I was never touched by them,  
and that the diamonds were mine.

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**Amanda says**

I'd eat it!

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## **Jesse Rice-Evans says**

Manguso's sometimes esoteric style works well in her short prose; in poetry, it prompts more questions than it solves.

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