

Touchingly, Goedicke focuses on the marvels of life and loved ones more than on the evanescent honors of the world. Yet she finds that even special moments and loved ones disappear beyond our reach, as in her poem "Sooner Speak to the Moon":

O Stars, O Atoms, tremble, O You
Of the so many you's in You, how dare
A single I even on your arm dream
Of entering such an impossible *pas de deux* (40)

As is typical of the best poetry, Goedicke's work yields greater insight with deeper reading. This book of poetry may appeal more to those experienced with life and the pain of losing a loved one than to the youthful caught up in the popular mainstream scene. Generally speaking, those who take the time to read intensively (each poem multiple times), will take more away from this book of poetry than those who casually take a dip.

During her 38-year career as a poet Goedicke published twelve books of poetry and received a variety of awards for her work. The *New York Times* selected her 1990 book *The Tongues We Speak* as a Notable Book, and the American Library Association placed *When Earth Begins to End* among the top ten books of poetry published in the year 2000. From 1982 until her death she taught at the University of Montana, earning many awards and honors along the way, including a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Residency in Bellagio, Italy, the H.G. Merriam Award (given to those who make significant literary contributions in the state of Montana), and the William Carlos Williams Prize.

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