



## Bellocq's Ophelia: Poems

*Natasha Trethewey*

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**Bellocq's Ophelia: Poems** Natasha Trethewey

**Selected as a "2003 Notable Book" by the American Library Association**

In the early 1900s, E.J. Bellocq photographed prostitutes in the red-light district of New Orleans. His remarkable, candid photos inspired Natasha Trethewey to imagine the life of Ophelia, the subject of *Bellocq's Ophelia*, her stunning second collection of poems. With elegant precision, Ophelia tells of her life on display: her white father whose approval she earns by standing very still; the brothel Madame who tells her to act like a statue while the gentlemen callers choose; and finally the camera, which not only captures her body, but also offers a glimpse into her soul.

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