

In *Make a Wish*, Sarah Azizi confronts her inner angels and demons with brutal, affecting honesty. This is a fierce, brave book that does not flinch as it confronts the joys and perils of motherhood, the grave illness of a child, and the speaker's own evolving sexuality. These are not poems for the fainthearted, and yet throughout Azizi is convincing in her belief in "...this wondrous life, mundane/ and precious, all at once."

—Elizabeth Spires, author of *A Memory for the Future* and *Worldling*

Sarah E. Azizi deftly explores "The uncharted territory / of our bodies" in this exhilarating debut. Simultaneously intimate and expansive, *Make a Wish* grapples with the joyous, terrifying complexity of being embodied, from a daughter's cancer, to sexuality, to a friend whose disappearance haunts the book. These poems are humane and sharp-edged, shaped by desire and loss. Azizi writes "poems that leave / lingering stains" and will have you craving more.

—Izzy Wasserstein, author of *These Fragile Graces*, *This Fugitive Heart*.

In *Make a Wish*, Sarah Azizi writes to "rip off the band-aid of taboo." She invites us to sift through our mysteries and memories alongside matchboxes, sugar & spice, the touch of silk on skin, out of sight knives, hope and motherhood embraced, and the mundane gardens we happily tend. Her lush poems also affirm what it means "to be in & of this world" of desire, hunger, and sexuality. She gives voice and release to the fragile, abused, neglected, and the witness, carefully reminding us that our bodies are precious and "not meant to be camouflaged."

—Juan J. Morales, author of *The Handyman's Guide to End Times*

"Fierce, tender, and frank poems that express the complexity of a woman's emotional life."

—*Kirkus Reviews*



Sarah E. Azizi was born in Shiraz, city of poets and roses, during the last hour of July in 1976. Two years later, she arrived in the United States. Sarah received her BA from Goucher College in the chic 90s; since 2002 she's lived in New Mexico, where she snagged an MFA and has rooted herself as a queer activist and educator. Her work has appeared in *Blue Mesa Review*, *Fahmidan Journal*, *Nine Mile*, *Emerge Literary Journal*, *Free State Review*, *Rattle*, and other wonderful publications. *Make a Wish* is her debut collection.



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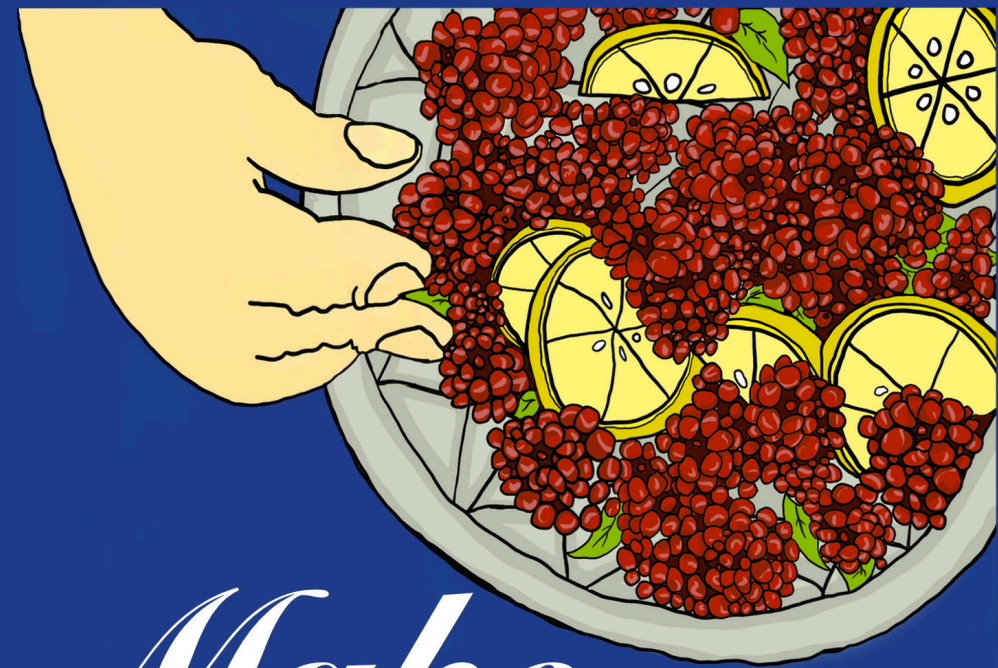


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poems

