

In what seems to have been a surge of creative and linguistic energy, Anne Tardos in the space of two years has written nine dazzling poetic sequences. Each sequence speaks with its own authority and from its own imagined life-world, but all of them celebrate the existence of social happiness, love. From the sequence “Words on a Page,” which opens the book and is a tribute to the author’s sheer love of writing, to “Madagascar Mud,” the paeon to the irreverent tumult of the natural world with which the book ends, Tardos establishes love as the foundation for writing. On love’s grounds, she explores and invents with the vibrant wit familiar to readers and audiences of her previous work but with less restrained as well as warmer exuberance. *The Exploding Nothingness of Never Define* will outlast the destruction and triumph over hate. All power to it.

— — Lyn Hejinian