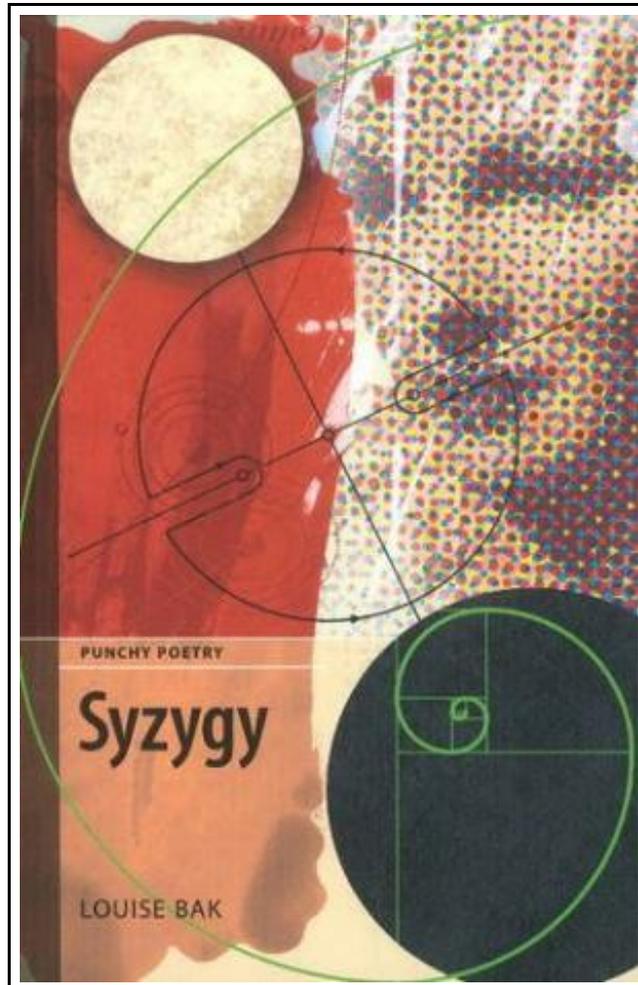


# Syzygy



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## SYZYGY



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DC Books,Canada. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Syzygy, Louise Bak, Louise Bak's third collection of poetry continues to reinvent the English language as a sharp and challenging post-modern argot that combines terminology ranging from Cantonese and Mandarin to Latin, Korean, punk and Klingon. Bak's poetry exploits the lyrics' foundational status as riddle rooted in metaphor and synecdoche by showing us how language itself consists of a string of riddle terms. In contrast to her previous books, the glossary appendix we have come to expect with her work has migrated to the site of the poems themselves, and now creep up from the bottom of the page like another representational tide of potential explanation and meaning. Bak's poems present a concentrated and often hyper-visual manner of conveying sexual and traumatic experience in a language of extreme metaphor. Many of her most tender poems are also her most violent. Syzygy, a term that means either conjunction or opposition, especially in reference to the moon and the sun, characterises Bak's explorations in language as simultaneously extreme in precision and intense in mediated opacity. Reversals of gaze and gender are a favourite and effective tactic in Bak's book. They are not always performed as a means of undermining an objectifying, ethnocentric position but often to celebrate positions of subjective and sexual ambiguity. Bak shows us how much there is to learn from figures who embody ambivalence, and she writes poems of gratitude for this state of linguistic and corporeal existence. For these people, who are the heroes of Bak's book, and who function as the material truth behind the linguistic contortionism found in her poetry, she offers prayers of eternal residence in "Syzygy". The collection gives new poetic form to the rich language of a multi-racial sex-culture that defines our new century.



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