



## Mules of Love (American Poets Continuum)

*Ellen Bass*

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Balancing heart-intelligent intimacy and surprising humor, the poems in Ellen Bass's *Mules of Love* illuminate the essential dynamics of our lives: family, community, sexual love, joy, loss, religion and death. The poems also explore the darker aspects of humanity—personal, cultural, historical and environmental violence—all of which are handled with compassion and grace. Bass's poetic gift is her ability to commiserate with others afflicted by similar hungers and grief. Her poem "Insomnia" concludes: "may something/ comfort you—a mockingbird, a breeze, rain/ on the roof, Chopin's Nocturnes, the thought/ of your child's birth, a kiss,/ or even me—in my chilly kitchen/ with my coat on—thinking of you."

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**Ellen Bass** is co-author (with Laura Davis) of the best-selling *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* (HarperCollins 1988, 1994), which has sold more than one million copies and has been translated into nine languages. She has also published several volumes of poetry, and her poems have appeared in hundreds of journals and anthologies, including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Ms.*, *Double Take*, and *Field*. In 1980, Ms. Bass was awarded the Elliston Book Award for Poetry from the University of Cincinnati. Last year, she won Nimrod/Hardman's Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, judged by Thomas Lux. She was nominated for a 2001 Pushcart Prize. She lives in Santa Cruz, where she has taught creative writing for 25 years. She has also taught writing workshops at many conferences nationally and in Mallorca, Spain.

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