

## BOOKLIST

### Darkling.

Rabinowitz, Anna

Dec. 2001. 96p. paperback, \$15.95 ([0-9710310-4-5](#)). 811.

[REVIEW](#). First published [December 15, 2001](#)

[\(Booklist\)](#).



Rabinowitz won the Juniper Prize for *At the Site of Inside Out* (1997). In her second book, a long, elegantly structured, and timely poem of loss and remembrance, she is archaeologist, elegist, and historian. Her inspiration is a family archive, a shoebox full of old photographs and letters, and the shards of memories shared by relatives who escaped the Holocaust. Add to that the poet's deep affinity for "The Darkling Thrush," a poem by Thomas Hardy marking January 1, 1900, the start of a new century that proved unprecedented in its mechanized violence and megatragedy. One hundred years later, at the bloody start of another confounding era, Rabinowitz muses on displacement and the fracturing of language and self, and mass murder and the guilt and grief of the living, in a piercing and powerful incantation in which the first letter of each line spells out Hardy's poem. This demanding acrostic formula creates a profoundly resonant overlay of two crucial sensibilities: his a celebration of unforeseen hope, hers a promise never to forget.

— *Donna Seaman*