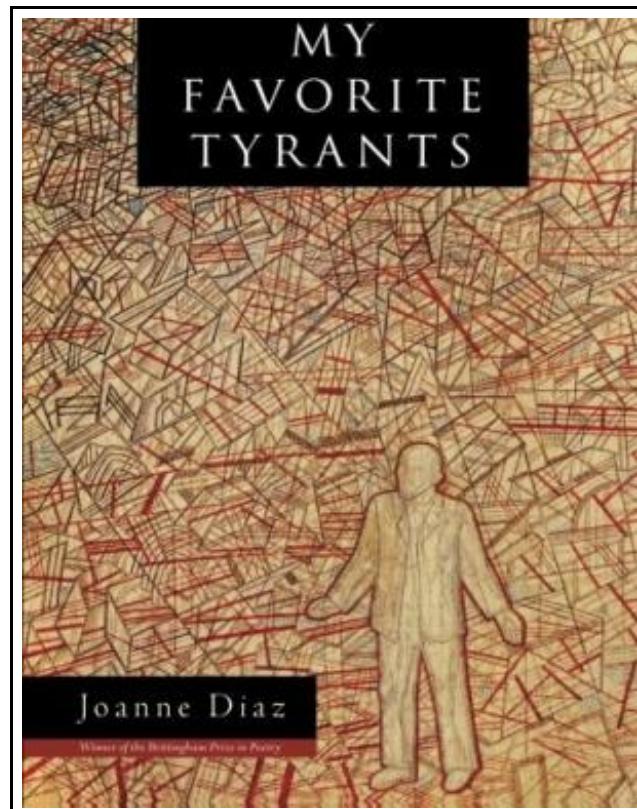


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Softcover. Book Condition: New. 80 pages. Softcover. New book. POETRY. Winner of the 2014 Brittingham Prize in Poetry, selected by Naomi Shihab Nye. The word "tyrant" carries negative connotations, but in this new collection, Joanne Diaz tries to understand what makes tyranny so compelling, even seductive. These dynamic, funny, often poignant poems investigate the nature of tyranny in all of its forms—political, cultural, familial, and erotic. Poems about Stalin, Lenin, and Castro appear beside poems about deeply personal histories. The result is a powerful exploration of desire, grief, and loss in a world where private relationships are always illuminated and informed by larger, more despotic forces. Joanne Diaz is an assistant professor of English at Illinois Wesleyan University. She is the author of an earlier collection of poems, *The Lessons*, and her poetry has appeared in *AGNI*, *The American Poetry Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among other publications. She is also a past recipient of writing fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts "Rich with smart, deft scenes—places you may not have been before, exactly, but feel strangely at home in. Congratulations to this transporting, potent poet." —Naomi Shihab Nye, Brittingham Prize judge "Forged of equal parts brains and brass, these poems bleed and shine and all but blind us. How wild they are, how beautiful! I love the way Joanne Diaz uses light and noise to tell us more than any history book can of the tyrants who distort yet give meaning to our lives: Castro, Stalin, our teachers, our parents, ourselves." —David Kirby "Exquisitely attentive to the given world, to history, to the human heart, to the cadence of words: the poems in this volume share all the virtues of Joanne Diaz's earlier work. What is new is the freer discursive range..."

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