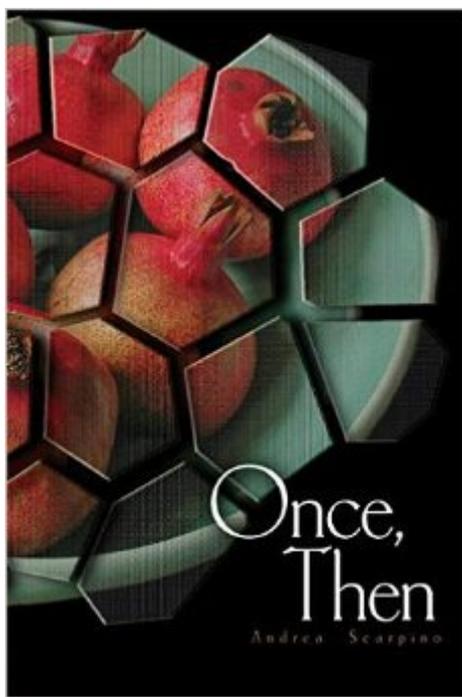


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# Once, Then



## Synopsis

In her debut full-length poetry collection, Andrea Scarpino's elegies move between personal and political loss, between science, myth, and spirituality, and between lyric intensity and narrative clarity. At their heart is a longing for those we have lost, and an acknowledgement that loss irrevocably changes us and what we understand of the world. Blending mythological figures such as Persephone and Achilles, scientific approaches to knowledge learned from her microbiologist father, and a deep ambivalence regarding religious ideas of death and afterlife, Scarpino's poems invite us to examine the world, our own place in it, and what to make of its continual collapse.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I thought I would have this book by my bedside, and with discipline, I might read it all by the time I get to a conference in a couple weeks where the author will be signing the book. I've still got one short story in another book to finish that I started months ago, and I don't have much time for leisurely reading, so I knew that getting through the book might be hard for me. I usually read audiobooks. Anyway, I took Advil PM and decided to get started on the book by reading one poem before I went to bed. Starting it would be enough, I told myself. Now, nearly two hours later, I have read the full book. There are tears uncomfortably perched on my ear lobes because I was lying down. And somewhere past the middle, I'd been carried along and lost it, emotionally-speaking, and then I rode with the tears until the end. And what I mean to say is that no sleep aid could make me put it down, nor any plan to do so (just one poem I told myself. I

have never read a book of poetry all the way through). And it's both mourning and a celebration of this feat that the author has performed with this book that I am left with, and I think that this book is so important in a world where we will all--do all--mourn and grieve and live. Just a day ago, I finished an audiobook I started on my road trip--Night Road by Kristin Hannah. It isn't a perfect book, though I really enjoyed it because the author attempts so much, but it spends a great deal of time inside the head of a person in a very bad place with death. (I've tried hard to avoid a spoiler, as the book is worth a read if the blurb appeals to any reader who checks it out).

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