



## Waiting for Sweet Betty (Paperback)

By Clarence Major

Copper Canyon Press, 2002. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. I find myself writing poems about things I can't paint, writes Clarence Major who, for 40 years, has been viewed by critics as a polymorphous writer who has been iconoclast, black esthetician, modernist, surrealist, postmodernist, and deconstructionist (World Literature Today). In *Waiting for Sweet Betty*, Major watches the world with careful longing to capture the exchanges and conflicts between person and place. Just as a painter juxtaposes colors and shapes, Major does the same with words, often writing as an outsider in foreign places. He shifts perspective away from the self, allowing words to play off one another subtly--with puns, inverted/subverted clichés, and sweet bop soundings--so that his vision might become anyone's. His subtle, conversational style, is at once humble, playful, humorous, and studied, and his stories can be seen as well as heard: I ride backwards to see what I'm missing. Big pines and big skies ride up and down and around, Up and down and around then for a straight stretch. A white pickup shooting along a white highway east with us. Note I'm trying to call home but cannot. Sky...

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