



## Totem

By Gregory Pardlo

American Poetry Review. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Totem, Gregory Pardlo, "Gregory Pardlo . . . wants to explore the druidic function of art, the works of jazz musicians, painters, poets, and others who live imaginatively, expand reality, and make imagination free." - Brenda Hillman, from the introduction Totem, winner of the APR/Honickman First Book Prize, is the debut of a poet who has been listening for decades. In his youth, Gregory Pardlo heard stories of factory hours and picket lines from his father; in the bars, clubs, and on the radio he listens to jazz and blues, the rhythms, beats, and aspirations of which all of which seep into his poems. A former Cave Canem fellow, Pardlo creates work that is deeply autobiographical, drifting between childhood and adult life. He speaks a language simultaneously urban and highbrow, seamlessly switching from art analysis to sneakers hung over the telephone lines. Deeply rooted in a blue-collar world, he produces snapshots of a life that is so specific it becomes universal. From "Vincent's Shoes": On the wall above my desk: a pen and ink affair which I copied from a print hanging in the sushi bar down the block: inflected necks...



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